THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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G-7 AGREES ON GLOBAL MINIMUM TAX RATE FOR MNCs

The Group of Seven wealthy democracies, whose finance ministers met in London on Saturday, have agreed to support a global minimum corporate tax of at least 15 per cent in order to deter multinational companies from avoiding taxes by stashing profits in low-rate countries.

CM TO DISTRICTS

'Positivity rate below 5% must to get curbs lifted'

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

AS the number of Covid-positive cases are coming down in Karnataka, the State Government is likely to relax lockdown restrictions in districts with a positivity rate below 5 per cent, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa indicated on Saturday.

He said that the government will review the situation after four or five days and then take the decision. The government on Thursday extended the lockown till June 14 and the process of lifting the restrictions is likely to start only after that.

Fifty days after the second wave started in the State, the positivity rate has fallen below 10 per cent and on Saturday, it hit 9.69 per cent. Data from the Health Department showed that it has come down from a high of 32.73 during May 8-May 14 and 12.23 per cent between May 29 and June 4. In Bengaluru too, the positivity rate has gone down from 32.89 per cent during May 8-May 14 to 6.96 per cent during May 29 to June 4.

The Health Department is targeting micro-pockets within districts that have recorded a higher number of Covid cases. As on Saturday, the State had 2.68 lakh active cases. **P3**

AID TO CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Saturday launched an initiative of depositing ₹3,000 each into the bank accounts of 25 lakh construction workers as part of Covid-19 relief announced under the first package. A sum of ₹749.55 crore has been earmarked for this purpose. **P3**

CENTRE GIVES TWITTER LAST CHANCE TO COMPLY

Uproar as 'blue ticks' briefly removed from accounts of V-P, RSS chief

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

THE Centre on Saturday sent 'one last notice' to Twitter, giving the US social media company another chance to comply with India's IT rules, which came into effect on May 26.

"As a gesture of goodwill, Twitter Inc is hereby given one last notice to immediately comply with the Rules, failing which the exemption from liability available under Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000 shall stand withdrawn and Twitter shall be liable for consequences as per the IT Act and other penal laws of India," the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) said.

Curiously, though, the strongly worded notice did not mention a specific date to comply with the rules. In the notice, MeitY said the US social media giant's refusal to comply with the Indian rules shows its "lack of commitment towards providing a safe experience for the people of India on its platform".

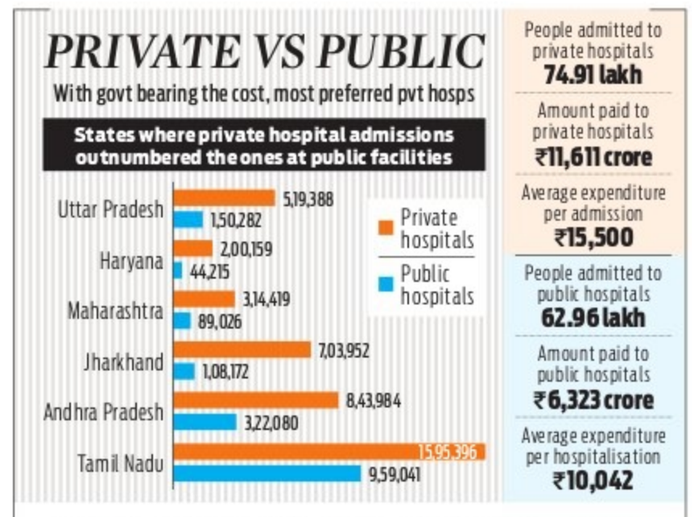
"Despite being operational in India for more than a decade, it is beyond belief that Twitter Inc has doggedly refused to create mechanism that will enable the people of India to resolve their issues on the platform in a timely and transparent manner and through fair processes, by India based, clearly identified resources," MeitY added. Meanwhile, Twitter declined to comment.

Notably, the IT Ministry's move comes on a day when Twitter courted controversy for removing the verified 'blue tick' marks of Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, RSS chief Mohan Bhagawat and RSS functionaries Suresh Soni, Arun Kumar, Suresh Joshi and Krishna Gopal. The microblogging platform's action created an uproar with critics accusing the social media firm of political bias.

Later, Twitter restored the verified badges. In its defence, Twitter said the blue tick was temporarily removed from Naidu's personal account as it was inactive since July last year. According to Twitter's verification policy, the platform may remove the blue tick and the 'verified' status if the account becomes inactive for more than six months. The "blue badge" helps users distinguish the authenticity of accounts that are of high public interest, and gives Twitter users more context about who they're having conversations with.

What next

If Twitter does not comply with govt norms, including appointing a chief compliance officer, it stands to lose its intermediary status that gives it immunity from liabilities over any third-party data hosted by it. In other words, it could be liable for criminal action in case of complaints


PRIVATE VS PUBLIC
With govt bearing the cost, most preferred pvt hosps
States where private hospital admissions outnumbered the ones at public facilities
Uttar Pradesh 5,19,388 1,50,282
Haryana 2,00,159 44,215
Maharashtra 3,14,419 89,026
Jharkhand 7,03,952 1,08,172
Andhra Pradesh 8,43,984 3,22,080
Tamil Nadu 15,95,396 9,59,041
Private hospitals
Public hospitals
People admitted to private hospitals 74.91 lakh
Amount paid to private hospitals ₹11,611 crore
Average expenditure per admission ₹15,500
People admitted to public hospitals 62.96 lakh
Amount paid to public hospitals ₹6,323 crore
Average expenditure per hospitalisation ₹10,042

BIG CHUNK OF AYUSHMAN BHARAT FUND SPENT TO FOOT PRIVATE HOSP BILLS

KUMAR VIKRAM @ New Delhi

UNDERLINING the poor state of public health infrastructure, particularly in small towns and rural areas, a majority of beneficiaries covered under the government's ambitious Ayushman Bharat scheme availed of hospitalisation at private hospitals instead of government facilities.

Till March 24, the total number of admissions under the scheme in private hospitals was 74.91 lakh, much higher than 62.96 lakh recorded in public hospitals, according to a reply received by this newspaper under the RTI Act. The reply revealed that of the total ₹17,934 crore spent by the government from the start of the year till March 24 to foot the beneficiaries' bill, ₹11,611 crore was paid to private hospitals, while the state-run facilities got ₹6,323 crore.

The average bill per admission at a private hospital was ₹15,500, at least 50% higher than ₹10,042 incurred at a public hospital. The reply said 14.66 crore health cards were issued till March 24 and 172.48 lakh admissions were authorised.

CONTINUED ON: P7

KARNATAKA	JUNE 4	JUNE 5
Fresh cases	16,068	13,800
Recoveries	22,316	25,346
Deaths	364	365

IAS feud: Rohini, Shilpa transferred from Mysuru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN a new twist to the ongoing IAS vs IAS spat and the long tussle between Deputy Commissioner Rohini Sindhuri and elected representatives in Mysuru, Sindhuri was transferred to the Muzrai department as commissioner, the post which she held earlier.

In her place, 2009-batch IAS officer Dr Bagadi Goutham, who earlier served as Chikkamagaluru DC and was with the commercial taxes department as additional commissioner, has been posted as Mysuru DC.

The government did not spare Mysuru City Corporation Commissioner Shilpa Nag, who went public with her allegation of highhandedness against Sindhuri. She has been transferred as director (e-governance) RDPR, Bengaluru. On Friday, she was berated by Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar for going to the press against Sindhuri without raising a formal complaint with her superiors. **P3**

WITH THIS ISSUE

THE EVIL EMPIRE

PLUS 12 PAGES MAGAZINE

SSLC marks to help grade PU II students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IN addition to their first PUC marks, students of Class 12 state board (Second PUC) will also be graded based on their SSLC marks.

Making the announcement on Saturday, Primary and Secondary Education Minister **S Suresh Kumar** suggested to the State Government to consider only the marks of CET and NEET for admission to professional courses.

The government on Friday cancelled the second PU exams and stated that the PU Education Board is working on an optimal formula for grading.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Bikini with Kannada flag sparks furore

ARUNKUMAR HURALIMATH @ Hubballi

AFTER Google, Amazon on Saturday landed in a controversy by putting up a bikini with Karnataka flag colours and emblem on sale on its Canada website. The e-commerce giant later removed the product after Kannadigas from across the world slammed the company.

On June 3, a Google search had shown Kannada as the ugliest language in the country. After a severe backlash, Google removed the website link and also apologised in Kannada.

The bikini that was being sold on Amazon had Karnataka flag colours and also depicted the emblem. It was being sold under the brand name BKDMHHH.

CONTINUED ON: P3

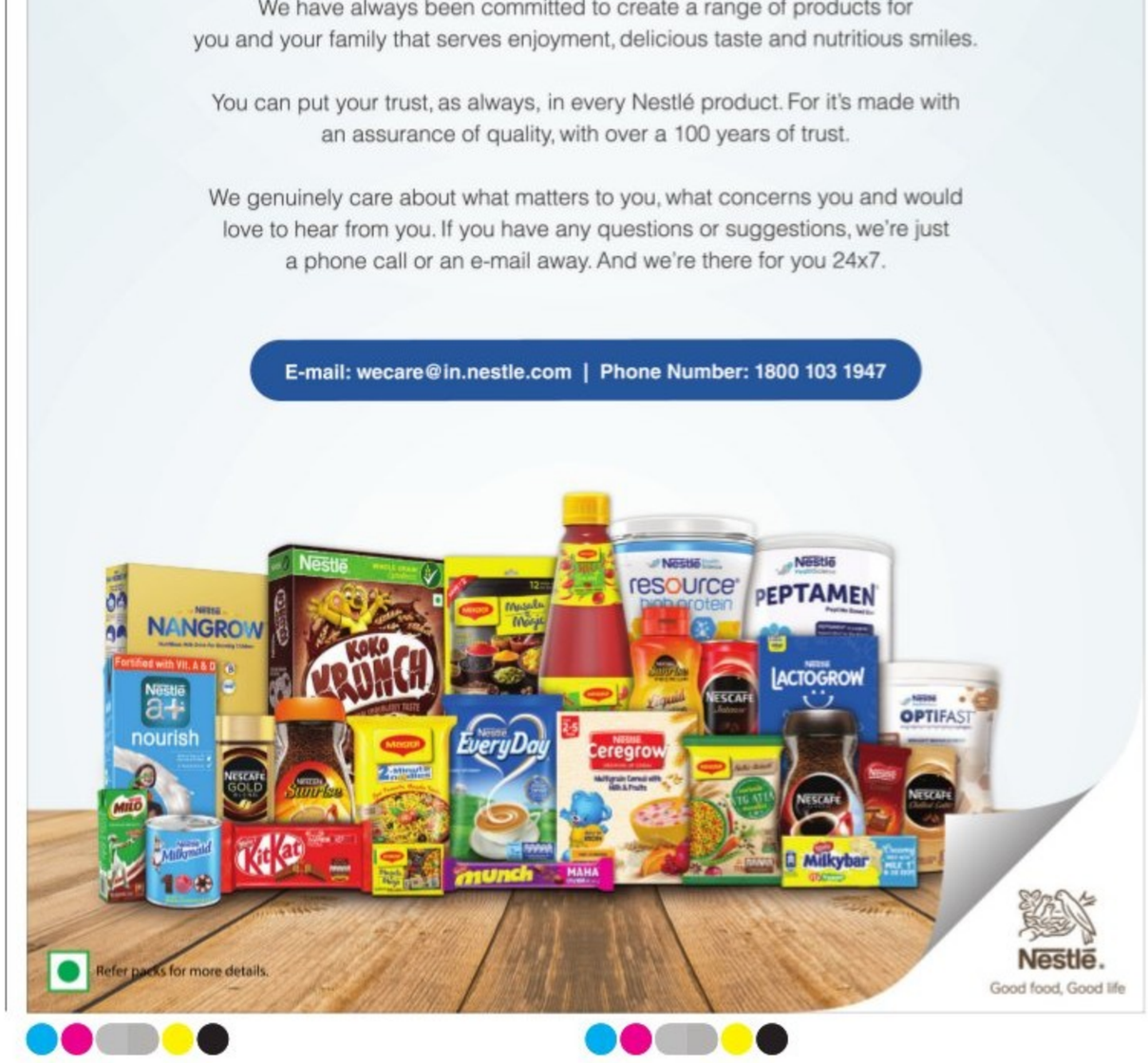
EXPRESS READ

Mamata appoints nephew TMC national general secretary

Kolkata: TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee on Saturday elevated her nephew and MP Abhishek Banerjee (33) as the party's all-India general secretary, the second-most important post in the organisation, a senior leader here said. TMC secretary general Partha Chatterjee told mediapersons about Abhishek Banerjee's nomination by the TMC supremo.

GST mop-up crosses ₹1 lakh cr mark for 8th straight month

New Delhi: GST tax collections remained above the ₹1 lakh crore mark for the eighth straight month in May, indicating that the impact of the second wave on the economy may have been limited. Tax collections on sale of goods and rendering of services in May at ₹1.02 lakh crore were 27 per cent lower than April 2021, but 65 per cent higher than May 2020.


We've been part of your lives for over a 100 years.
It feels great to be trusted like family.
Our relationship with you runs deep and is built on a foundation of love and care.
That's why we're constantly trying to live up to the trust you've placed in us.
We have always been committed to create a range of products for you and your family that serves enjoyment, delicious taste and nutritious smiles.
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resource
PEPTAMEN
LACTOGROW
OPTIFAST
nourish
EveryDay
Ceregrow
Milkybar
Refer packs for more details.
Nestlé
Good food, Good life

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS | BRIGHTSIDE

ALMANAC TODAY
Sunday : 06/06/2021 • Year: Plava • Ayana: Uttharayana
Ritu: Vasantha • Masa: Vaishaka • Paksha: Krishna • Tithi: Ekadashi 7.17 am
Nakshatra: Ashwini 3.16 am • Moon in Vrishabha Rashi • Rahukaala: 04:30 pm to 06:00 pm
Gulikakala: 03:00 pm to 04:30 pm • Yamaganda: 12:00 pm to 01:30 pm

WEATHER
MIN 22°C | MAX 29°C
FORECAST
Thundershowers. Overcast

Sunrise 5.52 am
Sunset 6.44 pm
Moonrise 2.57 am
Moonset 3.32 pm

THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

The pandemic has ravaged every corner of Karnataka, upending lives and bringing forth hidden fears and confusion. In such a time, have emerged selfless warriors who are contributing their mite to humankind. **The New Sunday Express** zooms in on a few such people who are heroes in their own right

Despite resource crunch, this doc keeps on going

THIPPERUDRAPPA B
@Chikkamagaluru

A physician at Chikkamagaluru's district Mallegowda General Hospital has supervised the treatment of over 6,000 people who contracted Covid-19, and toils on, despite the toll it has taken on his own mental health.

During the first wave of Covid-19 infections, **Dr Chandrashekar** oversaw the treatment of over 4,000 people who turned up at the district hospital after testing positive for the disease. Assisted by another doctor and other medical staff at the 140-bed hospital, Dr Chandreshekar handled the bulk of the supervisory work.

Despite his experience with the disease last year, the ferocity of the second wave was much harder to deal with. The hospital has treated 1,500 patients since April. "Initially, I was ok. But I began to get disturbed on seeing the rush of patients in the ICU," he says. Admitting that there is both a staff and resource crunch in government hospitals, Dr Chandrashekar says it was a challenge to arrange for beds with oxygen. "It was hard to see patients aged under 40 queue up for ventilators that were already in use," he says.

Despite these circumstances, Dr Chandrashekar did his best to treat patients and also help with their mental well-being. But to ensure this, he knew he had to look after his own emotional and physical well-being. He sets aside 90 minutes each day for a mix of aerobics, yoga and weight training to keep his mind and body sharp.

District Surgeon Dr Mohan Kumar says Dr Chandrashekhar's work is commendable. Physicians and staff nurses in the hospital are at the service of patients in spite of the constraints of human resources. "As the head of the hospital, I am thankful to all doctors and nursing staff. The situation as of now is well under control," he says.

As for Dr Chandrashekar, his only advice to people is to follow all precautionary measures.

On the go, 15 hours a day

DIVYA CUTINHO @Mangaluru

EVER since the Covid-19 outbreak last year, **Sujatha Shetty**, 47, has thrown herself into work, discharging her Covid duties for 15 hours a day, without a break. This ASHA worker from Mangaluru is also an ASHA facilitator for 39 ASHA workers in Katipalla and Attur-Kemral PHCs in Dakshina Kannada district.

She visits every house in her village every day to monitor the health of the villagers, besides holding vaccination drives and arranging transport facilities. Due to such continuous efforts, Delanthabettu village under Katipalla PHC in Surinje gram panchayat has reported only three cases since March last year. "When I came to know that one of the residents had symptoms of fever, I rushed to the house and asked them to undergo RTPCR tests. The village has 276 families and a population of 1,475," she says, adding that the virus is contained due to the people's cooperation.

Sujatha, who has studied up to PU, organised successful vaccination drives in March for people aged above 60. When people were refusing to take the vaccine, she spoke to Gram Panchayat officials and arranged for a bus for those getting jabbed. Now, she leaves home at 5am to reach the vaccination centre and issue tokens to people waiting from 4am. "We don't see what time it is, and sometimes, we don't even have lunch till 4pm," she says.

"She took the initiative of vaccinating all the villagers because many people were afraid, assuming they will have side-effects. For the last 12 years, she has visited all houses and helped people during health emergencies," said a gram panchayat member. She organises over 25 health awareness programmes every year.

She says it is her "bhagya" to serve people. "I have two daughters and my husband, who works as a school attendant, is at home. I am not able to look after my family and don't know whether they have their meals on time. We are at high risk but we are giving our best to the people," she says. She has not attended a single family function or taken leave.

CHIKKAMAGALURU
Dr Chandrashekar oversaw the treatment of over 4,000 people

SHIVAMOGGA
When Shobha K was first assigned Covid duty, she had to rent out accommodation. Later, with the help of hospital staff, she was given quarters

MANGALURU
Sujatha Shetty visits every house in her village every day to monitor the health of the villagers, besides holding vaccination drives and arranging transport facilities

VIJAYAPURA
An ambulance driver for the past 12 years, Ningappa currently gets about eight calls a day

Braveheart on a bicycle

PRAKASH SAMAGA @udupi

At the age of 60, Dinesh Pai need not hop on to his bicycle and peddle around Gopalapura and Subrahmanya Nagar wards of Udupi, identifying families which have contracted Covid-19, checking on them and delivering groceries. Especially when senior citizens are advised reverse quarantine to stay safe.

Pai, a nominated councillor of Udupi CMC, doesn't even give a thought to the open heart surgery he underwent about 10 years ago, and instead, keeps tabs on those who might go hungry if he doesn't go out and deliver essentials. He reminds us that primary contacts of Covid-19 patients cannot go out on errands. So every day, Pai dons the role of Covid warrior from 8 am to 1 pm. He buys up groceries and visits houses where patients are convalescing. Pai has helped others too, providing more than 50 grocery kits to the needy. He does a survey to find out whose income source is hit by the lockdown and reaches out to assist them. Prabhakar Shettigar, who works in a garment shop in Udupi, has been unemployed since the lockdown was imposed. Pai was at his doorstep, a smile on his face, to give him hope that all would be well and this is just a "temporary victory" for the unseen virus. "What is your worry other than temporary loss of job? I am there to help you." Shettigar recalls Pai's words. "We knew Pai as a social worker, but his style of working is exceptional." Jayakar Amin, a mason, told TNIE that if not for Pai, many people in their wards would have faced unbearable suffering.

A smooth last journey

SUNIL PATIL @Belagavi

It is in times of trial and tribulation that heroes are born. In Belagavi, a young and brave team has taken on the toughest of jobs – cremation and burial of Covid patients. The pandemic has thrown up a queer situation, where the Covid dead are treated as untouchable by families, friends and even life partners. The fear of infection overshadows a dignified farewell, and families often hand over the body to municipal authorities or social organisations. These youngsters – members of Shri Ram Sena Hindustan – have cremated 178 bodies so far, and have been providing this service since April 2020. Irrespective of caste, creed and religion, they perform the last rites as best they can. The team of ten -- Sachin Patil, Sudesh Late, Papu Shinde, Preetesh Malkache, Prajwal Kittwadkar, Vittal Kokitkar, Nagesh Redkar, Daulat Kanbarkar and Vinayak Pujari, led by Shankar Patil – is just a phone call away, and ready 24/7 with PPE kits, face masks, shields and gloves, to help in the hour of crisis. They also provide free ambulance service, and have even cared for patients with mild and moderate infection in a home, with the help of four doctors. The team does not accept funds, save for the expense of PPE kits and masks.

FOR THIS NURSE, HOSPITAL IS HER FIRST HOME

ARPITHA I @ Shivamogga

HER dedication to severely ill Covid-19 patients at McGann Hospital in the district has earned her a prefix: MIC, short for Medical Intensive Care Unit. For the past year, she's been known as MIC Shobha.

The 42-yer-old nurse has been working at the hospital for 14 years, and between August and November 2020 and from April this year, she's been deputed to look after critically-ill Covid patients.

The oldest child of her parents, **Shobha K** is single, and has two younger sisters and one brother. When she was first assigned Covid duty, she had to rent out accommodation. Later, with the help of hospital staff, she was given quarters. "I am not scared about treating Covid patients. I feel terrible when I see them. I feel it is my responsibility to treat patients properly," she says.

Shobha started her career as a nurse in Bapuji Hospital in Davanagere in 2001. She then worked with HIV positive people at the AIDS centre in Sagar for a couple of years. After a year-long stint at Ramaiah Hospital, she joined McGann Hospital as a staff nurse.

Shobha draws strength from her colleagues in hospital. "When doctors are doing their duty fearlessly, I am also not worried. All our staffers and doctors are very supportive. I treat Covid patients like normal patients," she says.

Despite this positive attitude, working in the MIC unit is tough emotionally, as patients are in bad shape when they're brought in. "Families fear admission to the MIC. But the MIC is where patients are the most closely monitored, and more than 90% of these patients have recovered. However, it is really difficult to save people who arrive in the last stage. MIC has now become my first home," she says.

As a child, Shobha grew up watching her parents help people and one day, she read a book about Mother Teresa and decided that she wanted to help other people.

Dr S Shridhar, Medical Superintendent at McGann Teaching District Hospital, told The New Sunday Express, "Shobha is dedicated, confident and courageous when it comes to treating coronavirus patients. She risks everything for them." Chandramathi Hegde, who retired last month as nursing superintendent, says that Shobha never refuses to come in during an emergency, and is a role model for others.

Diabetes is no reason to stay home for this ambulance driver

I know I am more vulnerable because I am diabetic. I am very cautious about my health, and wear PPE to attend to patients. My family boosts my morale each day...

Ningappa S Kumbar, Ambulance driver

MAHESH M GOUDAR @Vijayapura

AS an ambulance driver, **Ningappa S Kumbar** is no stranger to emergency. But even as the pandemic raged, the diabetic frontline worker never considered himself an emergency waiting to happen, though he ferried Covid-19 patients for several months last year.

A resident of Tikota town, 20km from Vijayapura, 39-year-old Ningappa works with the government-run 108 ambulance service. He's been diabetic since the age of 25. An ambulance driver for the past 12 years, Ningappa currently gets about eight calls a day. "Ambulance drivers have their share of risk because they ferry Covid patients and even the dead. The job has many challenges, including reaching patients as soon as possible and ensuring they get medical care in time," he says.

Though it has been known that co-morbid conditions can cause complications in Covid-19 patients, Ningappa never considered avoiding Covid duty. He is yet to get his second dose of vaccine.

"I know I am more vulnerable because I am diabetic. I am very cautious about my health, and wear PPE to attend to patients. My family boosts my morale each day, and that helps me serve people better. I cannot make excuses and avoid work in the middle of this health and humanitarian crisis," says Ningappa.

In the past one-and-a-half-years, he took barely any leave, and even when his father died due to a cardiac arrest recently, he took just four days off work. He is forced to cut down on quality time with family too, particularly with his two daughters.

Santosh Boda, programme officer for the GVK-EMRI 108 ambulance service, is proud of his staff comprising 120 people, including 63 drivers who handle 30 ambulances. Nine of the ambulances are currently deployed for Covid patients. "The drivers have been working round-the-clock since the outbreak. Some contracted the virus while on the job and reported back to work after they recovered," Boda says.

District Health Officer Dr Mahendra Kapse said that since ambulance drivers are also frontline workers, they have all been vaccinated.

FREE VAX DRIVE IN CITY FOR MIGRANTS, NEEDY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A 'Free Covid 19 Vaccination Drive' was announced across the city on Saturday. The drive, being taken up by Narayana Health, along with Give India, a non-profit organisation, will provide free vaccines to migrant labourers and the underprivileged.

The programme, which was flagged off by Dr Devi Prasad Shetty, founder and chairman of Narayana Health, plans to start inoculating 2,000 people in its first phase and expand to a wider population of migrant labourers, underprivileged and under-served sections of society. The Phase 1 drive will be hosted at Marhaba Palace, Govindapura, Majid-E-Ateeq School, 1st Main Road, Tank Garden in Someshwar Nagar and Government Primary Boys' School in Attibele area, covering beneficiaries above 18 years of age.

The #GetOneGiveOne initiative is to ensure free and faster access to vaccines for underprivileged citizens. Through the initiative, vaccine recipients at Narayana Health can donate a vaccine dose to someone in need. Corporates will also be encouraged to donate for every employee they get vaccinated through Narayana Health.

Dr Devi Shetty said, "Vaccination is the cheapest and most effective way to protect the country against Covid-19. A poor family of four will find it expensive to get everyone vaccinated in a private hospital and awaiting their turn might endanger their health and livelihoods."

Atul Satija, CEO and Founder 2.0, GiveIndia, said, "With the goal to make vaccines available and affordable across India, this initiative will also help us inoculate low-income communities against the coronavirus in a timely manner."

It's all virtual at Environment Day celebrations amid pandemic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

DESPITE the lockdown and the pandemic making the World Environment Day a low-key affair, the virtual safari tours on social media platforms and shared by the forest department officials, stole the show.

Due to the pandemic and orders from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the forest and environment department did not organise any walk or competitions. It was marked with virtual meetings and seminars organised by various wildlife divisions, government departments and NGOs. Many educational institutions, including Bangalore University, had partnered with State NSS Cell and United Nations Development Programme to organise a symposium on climate change.

The forest divisions of Bandipur and Nagarhole Tiger Reserves also organised virtual seminars and competitions. The Nagarhole division released a six-minute virtual safari video for all those missing it this season. The staffers at BRT Tiger Reserve organised a talk on Twitter, where directors of all tiger reserves in Karnataka along with Deputy Conservator of Forests of other divisions, shared details on the importance of tiger conservation and grassland protection.

Forest staff plant ficus into holes on trees which got burnt in a forest fire at AM Gudi Range in Bandipur | EXPRESS

In other territorial and forest divisions of the state, including Shivamogga, Tumakuru, Chikkamagaluru, MM Hills, Mysuru, Bannerghatta National Park, and Kodagu, symbolic sapling plantation events were also held.

"We decided to not have any celebration, keeping the pandemic in mind. However, we need to create awareness, hence we organised online events in small capacities to the attention of citizens towards conservation," said a senior forest department official.

Politicians were not far behind in doing their bit. Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa planted a sapling at his official residence. While Forest Minister Aravind Limbavalli participated in the Environment Day event in Dharmasthala, KPCC President D K Shivakumar participated in a sapling plantation drive in Ramanagara. Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan also planted a sapling in Malleswaram. Actor Darshan urged citizens to adopt animals housed in the nine zoos in Karnataka.

South Western Railways announced that Indian Railways had taken up the task to be zero carbon emission by 2030. For this, it has already completed electrification of 6,100 route kilometres, of which 303 route kilometres are from SWR.

RERA toothless to implement own orders: Residents waiting for homes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A litany of complaints poured in from homebuyers across the country and abroad on their inability to make builders abide by the directives issued by the Real Estate Regulatory Authority of India (RERA). Callers charged the Authority with being biased towards builders and felt it lacked teeth to implement its own orders.

These views were shared during a virtual seminar on '5 years of RERA - Journey so far & road ahead', organised by the Forum for People's Collective Efforts (FPCE), which strives to deliver justice to home buyers. The need to have recovery officers especially for RERA was a novel suggestion that came out of the discussion. Abhay Upadhyay, president, FPCE, M S Shankar, General Secretary, FPCE, Bengaluru, Devashish Bharuka, advocate, Supreme Court, and Ajay Mehta, vice-president, FPCE were the panellists.

Harvard de Silva, an NRI based in Dubai, shared the disappointment of 350 NRIs who had invested in 'The Green' property in Anekal. "I paid Rs 22 lakh (80% of property amount) in August 2013 and the house was to be ready by 2014-end. That did not happen and there was no response to many mails. Instead, I got intimidating mails from the builder for the balance." The group is yet to get their properties from the builder despite approaching RERA.

Despite the pandemic, the Public Development Work (PWD) has reached 99 per cent of its target in 2020- 2021, said Deputy CM and PWD minister Govind Karjol. In the last financial year, the department has developed 12,122 km of road which included 2,961 km of state highways and 9,164 km of major district roads.

'Politics at Centre will depend on how BJP, Cong will move in next 3 years'

RAMU PATIL @Bengaluru

SUNDAY INTERVIEW

As a regional party, we will also work hard. We will move forward and focus on strengthening our party. We will all work under (HD) Kumaraswamy's leadership

HD Deve Gowda, JDS supremo

TWENTY-five years after he rose to the top position in the country, heading a coalition government at the Centre, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda is actively involved in party activities. While strengthening Janata Dal (Secular) in Karnataka remains his core focus, 88-year-old Gowda says political developments at the Centre will depend on how the two national parties, BJP and Congress, move forward in the next three years. Excerpts.

How has politics changed over the last 25 years?

Many political parties that were in the NDA at that time have left the alliance. Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi has got a majority, many parties, including Shiv Sena, are not with NDA now. Similarly, Congress too has become weak in many states. In UPA, 27 parties had come together when Manmohan Singh was the PM. Many of them have left that alliance. A lot of effort is required if Congress wants to unite them again and I don't know if such a situation arises again. I am not in national politics and have confined myself to Karnataka.

Twenty-five years after you headed a coalition government at the Centre, how do you now look at your tenure as PM?

In a coalition government, it all depends upon the team leader, his commitment and how you are going to collectively work for the development of the country. In his book, TSR Subramanian (former Cabinet Secretary) has written in detail about several important decisions we took, including the Kashmir issue, relations with China and Russia and water dispute with Bangladesh, Delhi Metro project, telecom policy, stand on reservation for women and many other issues. He has also mentioned that coalition governments can do good work and how we had given corruption-free governance.

Is the unity of opposition possible and how do you look at results in the five states?

It was a big fight in West Bengal. Everyone was expecting the (BJP) to get through, but Mamata Banerjee got massive support from people and absolute majority. To some extent, it was a setback for Modi in the recent elections... We have to watch how BJP and Congress will move forward in the next three years. That is very important as they are the two national parties. As for regional parties, they have to make up their mind. Earlier, we had senior leaders like Jyoti Basu and Karunanidhi. We have to see what happens in the future.

Opposition leaders, including you, came together to write to the Centre about Covid...

Yes, I write whenever there are issues where people face problems, and not for any political combinations. I wrote to the PM as the Parliament was not in session.

Will there be coalition politics at the Centre again, with the BJP emerging strong?

BJP becoming stronger will depend on what they do in the next three years. You can't jump to that conclusion today. Look at many problems they are facing with vaccines and other issues. The Congress is also a national party and it all depends on how it will cooperate with all secular parties. I don't know about it.

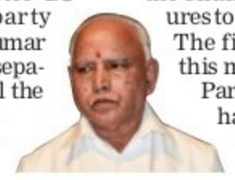
In Karnataka, Congress seems to be consolidating its position...

Let them do it, I am not bothered about them. Naturally, both parties (BJP and Congress) will work hard to gain power in 2023.

BJP forms panel to iron out differences

ENS @Bengaluru

TO put an end to its leaders criticising others publicly and causing embarrassment to the party and the government, the BJP has formed a committee to ensure better coordination between the government and the party. Party sources said apart from forming the committee, which has 15 members, senior leaders will also talk to those embarrassing the party and tell them to refrain from speaking against the government. "They will talk to minister CP Yogeeshwara and some MLAs who are expressing their displeasure against the government. This apart, Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and party state chief Naleen Kumar Kateel too will hold separate meetings with all the ministers," they said.



Kateel said that the coordination committee has been formed to discuss party programmes and ensure better coordination between those in the government and party. "The panel will meet once a month to take stock of the situation and take measures to strengthen the party. The first meeting will be this month," he added.

Party MLAs and leaders have been told to fully focus on Covid relief works, he said.

BJP State General Secretary N Ravi Kumar, who is also a member of the committee, said the committee will also prepare the party for the next elections.

Ironically, even as the party decided to form the committee, BJP MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal on Saturday again attacked party leader and CM's son BY Vijayendra. Despite his continued tirade, no action has been taken against Patil.

Mysuru corpn gets new chief

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

LAKSHMIKANTH Reddy, who was serving as MD of Karnataka, Food and Civil Supplies Corporation, has been posted in her place. The transfer ends a controversial tenure for Sindhuri as she faced allegations over pandemic management in rural areas, Covid expenditure and her handling of Nag. She had also been accused of constructing a swimming pool in her official residence.

In other transfers, the government posted P Rajendra Cholan as Bescom MD, moving out Rajesh Gowda MB. Rajendra will, however, continue to serve as the special commissioner of Health and IT at the BBMP as additional charge. Rajesh Gowda has not been given any posting.

Meanwhile, Dayananda K A, who was the commissioner of Muzrai Department, has been posted as Special Commissioner (Administration) at BBMP.

FINANCIAL AID

Govt launches scheme for 25L construction workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

CHIEF Minister B S Yediyurappa on Saturday launched the government's initiative of depositing Rs 3,000 each into the bank accounts of 25 lakh construction workers as part of Covid-19 relief announced under the first package. A sum of Rs 749.55 crore has been earmarked for this purpose.

Speaking to reporters, the CM said the government is talking all measures to bring the second wave of Covid-19 under control. On vaccination, he said 1.74 crore doses of vaccines have been administered to people in the state so far. Arrangements are being made to vaccinate construction workers on priority, he said.

Under the special financial package announced by the state, he said 11 categories of unorganised workers such as barbers, dhobis, tailors, hairdressers, mechanics, ragpickers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths and others are eligible for the Rs 2,000 aid and the beneficiaries, numbering about 3.3 lakh, can apply through the Seva Sindhu portal. Those facing difficulties owing to lockdown will be given financial aid and the government has set aside Rs 1,250 for this purpose, he added.

Mysuru logs highest Covid positivity rate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

OF the 30 districts (the Health Department still considers Vijayanagar as part of Ballari district), Bidar, Kalaburagi and Haveri have reported less than 5% positivity rate, while Yadgir, Bengaluru Urban and Ramanagara have less than 7%. Mysuru has the highest positivity rate at 30.54%.

Dr KV Thrilok Chandra, Commissioner, Department of Health, said that though some districts are showing lesser positivity rate, few pockets within those districts are reporting higher numbers. "We are micromanaging these pockets," he said.

Remove offensive product, netizens tell Amazon

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE product link and its screenshot went viral on social media sites. Many Kannadigas put up posts on Twitter and Facebook, asking Amazon to remove the offensive product from its website immediately and to take action against the brand. Kannada and Culture Minister Aravind Limbavali said, "Without knowing the rich history of our State, multinational companies are insulting our flag and language." He threatened to sue Amazon.

Ashok Chandargi, president, Kannada Organisation Action Committee, said Amazon, knowingly or unknowingly, has insulted the Kannada flag. "The firm should warn the seller not to insult others' sentiments."

EXPRESS READ

Devaraja Urs Corpn to help job losers

Mysuru: D Devaraja Urs Backward Classes Development Corporation has announced a scheme to help those who lost their jobs during Covid by providing them computers and sewing machines so that they can start their own initiatives. It will benefit those from backward classes that fall under the purview of the Corporation and economically weak sections from Lingayat community.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

The following Tender have been uploaded in **www.ireps.gov.in** website

Tender No./Due on. 90215905-24/06/21. Description: SMPS based Integrated Power Supply System

The following e-bids have been published in GeM website. Firms are requested to login to **www.gem.gov.in** and quote against the following e-bids. Manual quotations will not be entertained.

1. Bid No.: GEM/2021/B/ 1249532 Dated: 30-05-2021. **Name of the work:** Hiring of sanitation service for Chengalpattu station cleaning. **Due Date:** 09/06/21

2. Bid No.: GEM/2021/B/ 1249578 Dated: 30-05-2021. **Name of the work:** Hiring of Data Entry Operators. **Due Date:** 09/06/21

Principal Chief Materials Manager

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that our client proposes to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner SMT. RAJSHREE ANIL RAO Wife of Sri. Anil Ramachandra Rao.

Any person (s), having any manner of right, title, interest, claim etc., over the Schedule Property may lodge his /her /their / its objections or claims in writing with all supporting documentary evidence with regard to such claims with the undersigned within 15 days hereof, failing which, our client will proceed to complete the transaction. Any objections/ claims received thereafter will not be entertained /binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing BDA Site No.118, having PID Number 56-25-118, formed by Bangalore Development Board, situated at 26th Cross, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore, admeasuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 60 Feet, together with residential structure comprising of ground and first floors, in all measuring 1600 Square Feet, presently within local limits of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike & property is bounded on

East by : Site No.117
West by : Site No.119
North by : Road
South by : Site No. 111

H.K.GIRISH, Advocate
M & G Associates
82, 1st Floor, 41st Cross, 03rd Main, 8th Block, Jayanagara, Bangalore-560 070.
Phone - 080-26632343 / +91 88867044666
Bangalore Date: 05/06/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that My client Mr.Karan Mahesh Hasija S/o Gopaldas Hasija, Residing at Municipal New No.34, XII Cross Road, Sadashivanagar, Palace Upper Orchards Bangalore 560 080, hereby informs that, all the Original documents referred to Memo dated 29.08.1963 bearing No.PR114/1963-64 issued by CITB, Endorsement dated 23.03.1964 issued by CITB, Sanction Plan dated 07.04.1964 bearing LP No.18/1964-65 Mortgage Deed Dated 31.07.1964, Doc No.1528, Khatha certificate dated 08.04.1976 issued by BCC, Sale Deed dated 20.05.1976 Doc No.365, Sale Deed dated 16.08.1976 Doc No.623/1976-77, Katha Endorsement dated 08.04.1976 bearing No.NE/DAMSM76/77, Special Notice for Re-Numbered as Municipal No.34, Lease Deed dated 30.09.1972, Doc No.3438, Lease Deed dated 16.07.1974 Doc No.1598 and other Documents which have been lost/misplaced while shifting the house and is not in a position to trace the said original documents. My client has also lodged a police complaint in Lost Article Report dated 04.06.2021 No.104250/2021 before Crime Branch Bengaluru City Police. Any person/s in possession of the aforesaid document may return the same to us or anyone having any sort of claim over the said property may lodge their objections in writing within 7 days from this day to the undersigned.

Karthik. S. Rao. B, Advocate, No.10, Second Floor, Car Street, Halasuru, Bangalore-560 008. Date: 06.05.2021, Place: Bangalore.

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. / Due Date	Description	Qty. (Nos./Sets)	EMD (Rs.)
1.	07211376/28.06.2021	Male Stud Connector	33910 Nos	128040
2.	07211398/29.06.2021	Standpipe Run Tee	8620 Nos	64080
3.	07211391/29.06.2021	Male Stud Connector	22810 Nos	92590
4.	07211393/28.06.2021	Equal/Union Tee	4920 Nos	70250
5.	07211402/28.06.2021	Elbow	9400 Nos	54350
6.	07211387/29.06.2021	Straight Male Stud Connector	20640 Nos	55530
7.	05211071A/28.06.2021	Set of Bracket for under frame	741 Set	1,06,700.00

1. For details and making On-line bids, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in.** Drawings/specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF Website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in**. Class III-b digital signature certificate required for on-line bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at **http://www.cce.gov.in**

2. Tenders will close at **14.25 HRS.** on due date and tender will be opened at **14.30 HRS.** Tenders **Sr. No. 1 to 7** will be open at Tilak Bridge, New Delhi.

3. For queries, contact IREPS Help desk at 011-24102855,011-24105180 or RCF help desk at 011-23378658.

PCMM

No. : G-122-01/Store/022/2021-22 **Dated: 05.06.2021**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)

Devanahalli Branch, Bangaluru.
Phone: 080-27683949 080-27682252
Mobile: 9483530474
Email: cb0474@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whatever there is" on **12.07.2021**, from 11.00 A.M. to 01.00 P.M, for recovery of US Dollar **4,227,390.20** (US Dollar Four Million Two Hundred and Twenty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Ninety and Twenty Cent Only) equivalent to **Rs.31,96,75,247.00** (Rupees Thirty One Cores Ninety Six Lakhs Seventy Five Thousand Two Hundred and Forty Seven Only @ exchange rate 1USD = INR 75.62) and further interest & other charges from 27.06.2020 onwards, due to Canara Bank from **M/S Amalor International Limited (Borrower), M/s GSR Exim HK Ltd (Guarantor), Mr Muniswamy Suresh Kumar (Alias Mr Suresh Kumar M) (Guarantor & Mortgagor), Ms Maderamelta Rekha (Guarantor) and M/s MSK Shelters (Guarantor & Mortgagor)**

Details and full description of the immovable property, Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit amount with known encumbrances, if any.

(Amount in Rs)

Sl No	Description of Immovable Property	Reserve Price	EMD
1	All the piece and parcel of residentially converted land at survey number 142 comprising of 97 villa plots measuring 11912.35 sq mtrs out of total extent of land measuring 5 Acre 6 Guntas and 16 Guntas of "a" Kharab or 22460.05 sq mtr (duly excluding 10547.70 sq mtr of land relinquished for civic amenities, park and road infrastructure), Situated at Kuduvathi Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura district in the name of M/s MSK Shelters Bounded: On the East by: Lands in survey no 127 and 144, On the West by: Lands in survey no 139 and 140, On the North by: Lands in survey no 136, On the South by: Lands in survey no 145.	13,46,00,000	1,34,60,000
2	All the piece and parcel of residentially converted land at survey no139 measuring 4 Acre 30 Guntas out of which 82 Villa Plots are formed covering a total extent of 9874.02 sq mtr, situated at Kuduvathi Village, Nandi Hobli, Chikkaballapura Taluk, Chikkaballapura district in the name of Mr Muniswamy Suresh Kumar (Alias Mr Suresh Kumar M) Bounded : On the East by: Land in survey no 138, On the West by: Road, On the North by: Lands in survey no 170, On the South by: Lands in survey no 140.	9,67,00,000	96,70,000

The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before 08.07.2021 at 05.00 pm.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact **Chief Manager, Canara Bank, Devanahalli Branch, Bangaluru. Phone: 080-27683949 080-27682252 Mobile: 9483530474, Email: cb0474@canarabank.com** during office hours on any working day **OR** the service provider **M/s C1 India Pvt. Ltd Contact Person : Mr. Hareesh Gowda,** Email : **support@bankeauctions.com**. Contact No. **+91 124 4302020 / 21 / 22 /23/24**. Website: ***https://www.bankeauctions.com***.

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

Place: Devanahalli
Date: 03.06.2021

QuoteExpress **PROBLEMS ARE NOT STOP SIGNS, THEY ARE GUIDELINES** › ROBERT H SCHULLER

punjab national bank

CIRCLE OFFICE : SASTRA DEPARTMENT, Bangalore East Circle, 26-27, Raheja Towers, M.G. Road, Bangalore - 560001. Email-id- cs8191@pnb.co.in.

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice U/s 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002

A notice is hereby served on the undernoted borrower(s) /Mortgagor(s) (here in after referred as defaulting Obligants) on the loans availed by them from the Bank being classified as Non Performing Asset (NPA). Notice/s under section 13(2) read with rule 3(1) demanding repayment of the dues within 60 days as per the terms of the powers conferred to the undersigned under section 13(12) of the SARFAESI Act 2002 was/were already sent through post to the last known address(es) but have returned un-served. Hence, this notice is served on all the defaulting Obligants by way of paper publication as a substituted service.

The detail of the defaulting obligants, amount due and security offered towards repayment of borrowed facility(ies) are as under: -.

Sl. No	Branch (code)	Defaulting Obligant's Name and Address	Demand Notice date, facility, Account No and O/s Amount (date of O/s + further interest, charges and cost)	Description of the Immovable Property charged to the Bank by way of equitable mortgage
1	Jayanagar (099010)	**1. Mr R Mahesh Prabhu, S/o Late D V Revanniah and 2. Mrs K V Manjula, W/o R Mahesh Prabhu. Both residing at :** H.No.26, Khata No.125, New No.792, Konanakunte Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk - 560 061.	**24th May 2021 THL- 09906011000149 Rs.3,86,192.86 (31-03-2021)**	**H.No.26, Khata No.125, New No.792, Konanakunte Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk - 560061. Land bounded on the East by : Road, West by : Property No.21 and 22, North by : Property No.25 and South by : Property No.27.**
2	Frazer Town (127710)	**1. Mrs. Zakira Begum (Guarantor, spouse & legal heir of Late Syed Allah Baksh) Other Legal heirs of Late Syed Allah Baksh 2. Ms. Lubna Tabassum (Daugher) 3. Ms. Umme Ayman (Daughter) 4. Mr.Syed Mohajid Pasha (son) 5. Mr. Syed Mudasir (son) All residents of** No.4 B Assessment No.131/2, New BBMP No.33, PID.95-426-33, at II Main, 4th Cross, Anwar Layout, Shampura Main Road via Tannery Road, Bangalore - 560045.	**21th May 2021 A/c No.12775015001065 of M/s Aldrich Glass and engineering (Prop - Late Syed Allah Baksh) Rs. 4,38,312.00 (30-04-2021)**	**No.4 B Assessment No.131/2, New BBMP No.33, PID.95-426-33 at II Main, 4th Cross, Anwar Layout, Shampura Main Road via Tannery Road, Bangalore - 560 045, measuring East to West 38 feet and North to South 18 feet. Property Bounded on the East by : Private Property of Sri Basha, West by : 20 feet Road, North by : Private Property and South by : Private Property of Sri Shakeel.**
3	Domlur (754700)	**1. M/s Spar Air and Sea Services P Ltd and 2. Mr. P Srinivasan (collateral owner) Both available at :** B Type Row House, BDA Block No.B7-695, Domlur 2nd Stage, 3rd Phase, Bangalore - 560071.	**27th May 2021 CC:7547008700000040 TL:754700IB00000011 CC: Rs.18,40,332.00 and TL: Rs.15,35,424.00 Total: Rs.33,75,756.00 (31-03-2021)**	**B Type Row House, BDA Block No B7-695, Domlur 2nd Stage, 3rd Phase, Bangalore - 560071. Property Bounded on the East by : Building No 695/B, West by : Building No 696/B, North by : 7th A Main and South by : conservancy.**
4	Indiranagar (105710)	**1. Mrs Amreen Shaikh, W/o Mr Shaik Irshad Ahmed and 2. Mr Shaik Irshad Ahmed Both residing at :** No.53, PID No.96-127-53, 5th Cross, Gopalappa Layout, BBMP Ward No. 22, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore – 560 032.	**26th May 2021 THL:1477300003339 Rs.23,65,794.00 (31.03.2021)**	**No. 53, PID No.96-127-53, 5th Cross, Gopalappa Layout, BBMP Ward No. 22, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore – 560032. Property Bounded on the East by : House List No 4, West by : House list No 6, North by : Private Property and South by : Road.**
5	Domlur (754700)	**1. Mrs. Dakshayani.M** Flat No.G1, Gangadhar Residency, 53 Subbanna Garden, PID.70/63/53, Adugodi, Bangalore 560030.	**27th May 2021 THL: 754700NC00001483 Rs.59,64,289.00 (31-03-2021)**	**Flat No.G1, Gangadhar residency, 53 Subbanna Garden, PID.70/63/53, Adugodi Bangalore 560 030. Property Bounded on the East by : Property of Dr S Chinnapully, West by : Property of Bellandur Akkamma, North by : Private Property and South by : Cross Road.**
6	Electronic City (123820)	**1. Mr. Ramachandra (Borrower)** Sy No.44/4a, Hebbagodi, Near Biocon, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099. **2. Mr. Venkatesh Mattappa (Guarantor)** No.3070, Bhavani Road, Hebbagodi, Electronic City, Bangalore – 560 099.	**27th May 2021 THL-1238300522915 Rs.14,30,851.00 (30-04-2021)**	**Property at Sy No.44/4a, Hebbagodi, Near Biocon, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560099. bounded on the East by : 5 feet Road and land of Krishnappa, West by : land of Venkatesh, North by : Land of Shankar in the same Survey No and South by : Land of Papanna in the same Survey no.**
7	Electronic City (123820)	**1.Mr Shivraj B M 2. Mrs S Lakshmi Devi Both residing at -** No.251, Old No.234/209, Ward No.12, Mangammana Palya Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560068.	**27th May 2021 THL-1238300525565 Furnishing TL - 1238300520033 THL -Rs.65,11,316.00 and Furnishing TL Rs.10,84,558.00 Total Rs.75,95,874.00 (30/04/2021)**	**No.251, Old No.234/209, Ward No.12 Mangammana Palya Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560068 and bounded on the East by : Abdul Basheer's House, West by : B L Babu's House, North by : Muni Venkatappa's house and South by : Road.**

Abbreviation used: CC: Cash credit; TL-Term loan; THL- Term Housing Loan and ODHL-Overdraft in Housing Loan

The attention of the above said defaulting persons are hereby invited to the provisions of section 13(8) of the said act in respect of the time available to them for redemption of the secured assets failing which, further action under section 13(4) of the said act will be initiated. They shall not transfer or alienate the assets by way of sale, lease, mortgage, extinguish rights in favor of their family members/third party or to create any further encumbrance without written prior consent of the Bank under section 13(13) of the said Act.

If the said Borrower(s)/Obligant(s)/Guarantor(s) fail to make payments to Punjab National Bank as afore said, the Bank may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrower/obligants. For further details, please contact the Authorized Officer at the above said address.

Place : Bangalore
Date : 5.6.2021

FOR PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK (SECURED CREDITOR)
Sd/-
AUTHORIZED OFFICER

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

COVID-19

TRACKING COVID-19

SPEED AND RISE OF COVID-19 CASES IN KARNATAKA

13,800 CASES REPORTED TODAY

16,068 CASES REPORTED YESTERDAY

TALLY STANDS AT

TODAY	26,83,314
YESTERDAY	26,69,514

DEATHS

TODAY	YESTERDAY
365	364

DISCHARGES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
25,346	22,316

ACTIVE CASES

TODAY	YESTERDAY
2,68,275	2,80,186

POSITIVITY RATE

TODAY	8.81%
YESTERDAY	8.81%

The day positivity rate – **9.69%** today is calculated as the number of patients testing positive out of 100 tests conducted only in a day.

MORTALITY RATE

TODAY	1.16%
YESTERDAY	1.15%

RECOVERY RATE

TODAY	88.88%
YESTERDAY	88.34%

The first Covid-19 case in Karnataka was reported on March 8, 2020. Since then until June 4, 2021, a total of 26,68,314 cases have been reported in 1 year and 86 days...

1,49,77,980 Total doses administered in state

VACCINATION DRIVE STATUS

Number of people completing vaccination	28,56,137
Health care workers 1st dose	7,25,870
Health care workers 2nd dose	4,75,245
Frontline workers 1st dose	6,44,269
Frontline workers 2nd dose	2,17,831
Age 18-45 1st dose	18,900,35
Age 18-45 2nd dose	2,786
Above 45 1st dose	88,61,669
Above 45 2nd dose	21,60,276

DISTRICT-WISE COVID CASES

LAST 24 HOURS

2,686 BENGALURU URBAN

326 BENGALURU RURAL

Bagalkot: **175**	Chamarajanagar: **340**	Dakshina Kannada: **714**	Hassan: **568**	Kolar: **424**	Raichuru: **110**	Udupi: **552**
Ballari: **345**	Chikkballapur: **432**	Davanagere: **529**	Haveri: **88**	Koppal: **279**	Ramanagara: **57**	Uttara Kannada: **325**
Belagavi: **847**	Chikkamagaluru: **378**	Dharwad: **247**	Kalaburagi: **69**	Mandya: **562**	Shivamogga: **710**	Vijayapura: **254**
Bidar: **23**	Chitradurga: **449**	Gadag: **152**	Kodagu: **255**	Mysuru: **1,155**	Tumakuru: **695**	Yadgir: **54**

GENOME DATA FROM ICUs VITAL TO PREDICT NEW VARIANTS: STUDY

It'll help prevent future waves; Airports, ICUs places where genome data can be monitored

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

A team of doctors conducted a feasibility study to sequence a batch of patients who tested positive for Covid-19 through RT-PCR test and found that of the 44 genomic samples sequenced, 41 of them were of the new double mutant variant sub-lineage B.1.617.2, also known as the Delta variant.

The Delta variant is said to be at least 50 per cent more transmissible than the Alpha variant, which was first seen in the UK and has replaced all the other variants — UK and South Africa — in many states, including Karnataka. The study found that it is feasible to sequence batch-level processing in a quick manner so that one can identify variants quickly and prepare for the next wave.

Dr U S Vishal Rao, Dean, Centre for Academic Research, HCG Cancer Center and member of expert committee, Covid-19 task force, and his team, including Dr Vamsi Veeramachaneni, Chief Scientific Officer at Strand Life Sciences, and Rohan Pais, COO, Strand, met Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwanth Narayan and submitted a report stressing that it is important to carry out genomic surveillance to identify emerging strains early so that scientists can establish the transmissibility of the new strains, assess vaccine protectiveness, verify RT-PCR kit performance and study clinical presentation.

"We know that this strain is going to continue evolving and more and more questions will be asked. Is it more transmissible? Is the vaccine protectiveness compromised or not? Are the RT-PCR kits that I am using in my local lab going to work against these new mutations or not? We need a quick way of analysing the data and trends," explained Dr Vamsi to The New Sunday Express.

He said that the study showed that infections that result in ICU admissions are particularly important to monitor and genomic sequencing of all Covid ICU admissions may shed valuable insights.

Speaking to The New Sunday Express, Dr Vishal Rao said, "Clinical correlation of genetic lineages is very important. It is now evident that in many states, the second wave was caused by the Delta variant."

He said such a spread could be prevented and policy decision on lockdown, tracing, tracking etc., can be effective if they are based on genomic data.

"There is a time gap in defining the genome and acting of policy on this finding. This clinical bridging has to be done. We found a great increase in black fungus cases, but not all were oxygen related. So, we will have to study if this variant has tendency of activating fungus etc," he said.

Dr Vamsi is confident that aggressive fungus genomic mapping will help track the aggressive course of spread as well as vaccine efficiency. He explained that this pilot study showed that genome surveys can be effectively and quickly done.

"As clinicians, we are saying that ICUs must be monitored and our governments should be more proactive than reactive. We should keep track of the ICUs, especially where the number of deaths are high. It can be noted that even now, with the cases coming down, we have 80 per cent of the ICUs still occupied. We must do genome focus on them. Airports and ICUs are the places where genome data can be monitored for new variants," Dr Vishal Rao said.

What is the Delta variant of Covid-19

There are many SARS-CoV-2 variants circulating globally. In India, we have so far found 8,572 variants from 28 states. One of these is the B.1.617 lineage, which was found in India in December, 2020. It is now found that it's sub-lineage B.1.617.2 labelled as Delta by the WHO is a variant of concern.

VARIANTS FOUND IN MAJORITY IN KARNATAKA

WHO label	Lineage	First found in	Samples found positive
Alpha	B.1.1.7	UK, Sept 2020	109
Beta	B.1.351	South Africa, May 2020	6
Delta	B.1.617.2	India, October 2020	244

PIC: ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Why so dangerous?

60-70%... ...more transmissible than contemporary lineages.

It has spread to more than **58** countries.

International reports claim increased risk of hospitalisation. Though the second wave in India showed similar trends, it is still not proved it is due to this variant.

Delta variant is present in all states but has infected most in Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha and Telangana, which were the worst hit in the second surge.

Decreased efficacy in some vaccines.

Nearly 25 per cent of our genome sequenced samples across the state has shown the Delta variant sub-lineage and we can say that it is over taking the other variants

Dr V Ravi, renowned virologist and Nodal Officer for Genomic Confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 in Karnataka

It is important to carry out genomic surveillance to identify emerging strains early. The report will be discussed and the inputs will be presented to the Technical Advisory Committee for further inputs

Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, Deputy Chief Minister, State Covid Task Force Head

Police stop motorists at a checkpoint during the state-wide lockdown in Bengaluru on Saturday | VINOD KUMAR T

Experts favour graded unlocking

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

AT a time when the state has extended the lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19, experts have opined that while unlocking, the government should focus on lifting the curbs in a phased, graded and time-bound manner. They also said that if the unlock is carried out effectively, then the third wave will not even hit a peak.

The State Government recently extended the lockdown till June 14 after the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Covid-19 suggested lifting of curbs only after the test positivity rate (TPR) falls below 5 per cent and the cases fall below 5,000.

A conference to address a safe and effective approach to unlock the state was organised by 'SAGE (Societal Action Group of Experts) to Combat Covid-19 Calamity in Karnataka' on Saturday.

Experts felt that all aspects should be considered while unlocking. Unlike last year, when the Union Government released guidelines to lift curbs, this time, the State Government itself will have to frame rules.

TAC Chairman Dr M K Sudarshan, who was part of the conference, said, "The factors that need to be focused on are closed spaces which include cafeterias, pubs and bars, cinema halls, shopping malls, offices, factories, places of worship, schools and educational institutions. These are places where the risk of infection is high. Larger congregations like political rallies, fairs and festivals should be avoided. We further need to see how to unlock places — with 30%, 50% , 70% occupancy. Night curfew needs to be implemented as most of the pubs are open overnight and there is crowding."

Meanwhile, Dr Giridhar Babu, epidemiologist at the Indian Institute of Public Health, Bengaluru, pointed out that contact tracing and testing are not done adequately in Bengaluru as the city faces manpower crunch to carry out these processes efficiently.

He also said that vaccination was important to reduce the number of cases. "Vaccination and proper containment strategies alone helped other countries to curb Covid-19. It is not just a lockdown. We need to carry out mass vaccination. If the majority of the population is not vaccinated by November, then the third wave will certainly hit Bengaluru," he added.

Shift to CCC from home isolation, get Rs 2,000

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Koppal

As many as 1,337 Covid patients are still under home isolation in Koppal district, despite officials pleading with them to get admitted to Covid Care Centres to avoid other members of their families getting infected.

At Chikamadinal, Gram Panchayat chief Tippanna Gaddi is offering a cash incentive of Rs 2,000 to patients to get admitted to the CCC at the village.

The panchayat covers Gouripura, Basarihal, Muslapur and Chikkamadinal villages. It comes under Kanakagiri taluk.

Officials had to plead with patients under home isolation to get admitted to CCCs. That is why the cash incentive is being offered, said Tippanna, who is bearing the cost from his pocket.

"The patients don't seem to realise the severity of the disease. With the cash incentive, they are now moving to the CCC," he added.

The cash incentive offer is worth emulating by other people's representatives in the district, said the residents of Chikkamadinal. However, officials and citizens also have the responsibility to ensure all patients under home isolation get admitted to CCCs, they added,

The cash incentive offer by Tippanna helps create awareness about the pandemic in rural areas where the virus is spreading fast, said an official.

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar inspects the Dr CV Raman General Hospital in Bengaluru on Saturday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

K'taka to cap black fungus treatment cost at pvt hosps

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE State Government has decided to cap the price for treatment of mucormycosis (black fungus) at private hospitals, Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar has said.

The state has so far reported 1,784 cases of the infection and 62 recoveries.

Speaking to reporters after visiting Dr C V Raman General Hospital on Saturday, Dr Sudhakar said 1,564 people are still being treated for black fungus. "About two to three weeks of treatment is necessary and it takes about five to six weeks for complete recovery. Sixty-two people have recovered and unfortunately, 111 have succumbed to black fungus," he said.

He said mucormycosis treatment was being provided free of cost at government facilities. Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa has said that the treatment cost will be borne by the government, he said, adding that the state is also considering to include the treatment under the Ayushman Bharath-Arogya Karnataka scheme.

On Amphotericin-B, the drug used to treat black fungus, the minister said 9,750 vials of the medicine has been allocated to the state by the Union Government, and 8,860 vials were received on Friday. "We have so far received 18,650 vials of Amphotericin-B of which 8,860 vials have been given to government hospitals and 9,740 to private hospitals," he added.

"Post-Covid centres are being set up in hospitals to monitor and treat patients with post-Covid complications. Doctors are also being trained in this regard," he said.

99-year-old fights off Covid bravely with tube in his chest

IFFATH FATHIMA @ Bengaluru

AS the Covid-19 second wave has targeted the younger population and claimed many lives, here is 99-year-old Basavaiah from Bengaluru, who had a tube inserted in his chest for 10 days, was discharged recently after being admitted in the hospital for 21 days.

Basavaiah, a resident of Kumara Park West, developed severe breathlessness and was tested positive in early May. He was diagnosed with pneumothorax. When doctors examined him further, they found he had a perforation (hole) in the wall of part of the gastrointestinal tract, which was further deteriorating his condition.

99-year-old Basavaiah with the team of doctors

A surgery had to be performed. But since he was on oxygen, the team decided to handle the case through medication.

"The first three days we focused on the abdominal problem through conservative management, and the patient started feeling better," said Dr N Gnani, Intensivist, Suguna Hospital, Rajajinagar.

But after a week, his breathlessness became severe and a repeat CT scan showed pneumothorax – the collection of air between the lungs and ribcage -- on the right side. "We inserted a tube into the chest to drain out the air and we kept it for 10 days. It is very difficult for a patient of this age. Surprisingly, he took the entire procedure, called intercostal drainage, positively and even recovered well," he said.

Dr YA Suresh, Physician at Suguna Hospital, said, "The patient even had electrolyte disturbances like low potassium and low sodium which was addressed. The intercostal drainage cannot be handled by even 60-year-olds, but he took it all and returned healthy."

BREATHER AT LAST

2 months on, crematorium workers get shut-eye

Earlier, we were only five people and it was not easy to manage. Since May, five more workers have been posted here. We used to cremate 30 bodies in a day in May, and on some days, it even touched 40

Ravi, who works at the Sumanahalli crematorium in Bengaluru

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

EVER since the second wave of Covid-19 hit, workers at graveyards and crematoriums in Bengaluru had been working tirelessly for 18 to 20 hours every day. But with the number of deaths coming down over the last few days, they are now heaving a sigh of relief. In May, the state witnessed over 550 daily deaths across the State, with Bengaluru alone recording about 350 deaths.

In Bengaluru, there are 12 electric crematoriums i with two furnaces each. Of the 12, seven are earmarked for cremation of Covid victims. In Bengaluru, there are 148 people working at crematoriums and graveyards.

Raju, who used to work at the Kalpalli graveyard, one of the biggest graveyards in Karnataka, said he was deputed to the electric crematorium in Hebbal where sometimes, one of the two furnaces would stop working due to overload. "We would get around 25 bodies in a day. We need at least one hour for a body to burn after which the furnace has to be cleaned and the next one taken in. We used to come at 7 am and end up working till about 2 am. For the last two months, we couldn't even have dinner on time. But, over the last three to four days, we are winding up by 9 pm as the number of bodies coming to our crematorium has reduced. I return home by 11 pm and have dinner with my family, which I was missing all these days," he said. Most days, they even skipped breakfast. "We used to start the day with just one cup of tea at 7 am," he said.

Explaining their trauma, Raju said many of the dead were aged between 25 and 45. "It was such a sad state to see grieving parents and family members every day who would come for cremation. I have even done the cremation of a month-old baby," he said.

Most of them are contract workers and their previous generations too were in the same profession. "I have been working for the last 15 years. Both my father and grandfather worked at graveyards. None of them had faced this kind of work pressure," Nagaraju, another worker, said. "Though my grandfather would talk about the plague, Covid deaths have broken all the records, which is depressing," he said. They would sleep three hours a day on most days last month. "Now, with cases declining, we are able to sleep for six to seven hours a day," he said.

Ravi, who works at the Sumanahalli crematorium, took his first dose of the vaccine this week. According to him, since April, they have cremated more than 1,600 bodies at their crematorium alone. "I have not gone home. My aged parents, wife and children stay at home and I have not seen them for many days. I am scared to go home as I work here," he said.

PU II EVALUATION A CHALLENGE; AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @ Bengaluru

WITH the second-year Pre University (PU-II) board examinations cancelled, many have heaved a sigh of relief across the state. But the education system faces a bigger challenge: How to better evaluate the PU II students who are now being "promoted" to pursue degree courses so that their performance at the next level is not affected?

No unit tests held across all colleges, no system of continuous evaluation of students, and no offline classes even as at least 20 per cent of students were unable to attend in the online mode - this is what PU II classes were like this past academic year. And, even as the Education Department finally decided to cancel the board exams, it is left with hardly any credible markers to judiciously grade the students.

The cancellation of the exams has left evaluators with a truncated retro-grading evaluation system - the students' Class 10 and PU I marks. Experts say this is not the right way to evaluate the students.

"Internal assessment (based on unit tests) held at district level cannot be considered (for evaluation), because, while some of the students wrote a mid-term and first and second unit tests, there are those who haven't, especially among rural students," says PU Education Department Director R Snehal, indicating that taking these for evaluation will not do justice to those students who could not write the tests.

Experts too say SSLC board exams taken by students two years ago and the PU I exams taken last year can hardly be credible indicators for healthy evaluation to grade PU-II students now.

Prof Ananth Prabhu, Sahyadri College of Engineering and Management, Mangaluru, says, "There are many who fare very well in Class 10 and perform poorly in PUC, and vice-versa. So, this truncated evaluation system will be injustice to many students."

Prof Prabhu suggests holding the exams in a restricted manner. "A truncated evaluation system (as is being considered now) should be for 50 per cent of the marks, but for the remaining 50 per cent, an objective-type four-hour consolidated exam should be held, covering all the subjects. This can be held in different slots for different batches of students, spread over five days. This way, all the students can write the exams, get marks and also their hard work will not get wasted. And they would have to appear for exams only on one day, instead of six," he explains.

Call for continuous evaluation, life skills development

Experts want life skills and continuous evaluation henceforth, alongside academic performance in PU-II to evaluate students in a more credible manner.

While the CBSE has Comprehensive Continuous Evaluation (CCE), the current PU format lacks a mechanism to develop or assess life skills among its six lakh students, which could be a factor in identifying whether a student is prepared for the next level of education.

"The regular method of evaluation needs a revamp and the present situation only emphasizes this. Otherwise, we will further disadvantage the already disadvantaged," says Subhankar Chakraborty, General Secretary, Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samithi (BGVS), a people's science movement largely composed of teachers and scientists.

He says the government should put in place a holistic assessment taking into account the lived experiences of students by assessing fundamental skills learnt — like computation, observation, reasoning and language acquisition, which is a reflection of their learning without invalidating their experiences. "The present assessment of considering either SSLC or PU I marks seems a farce, a quick-fix, a bureaucratic process to fill the spreadsheet, which completely neglects the difficulties that children have gone through."

Prof Yagnamurthy Sreekanth, Professor in Education (Assessment Studies) and Principal, Regional Institute of Education, Mysuru, says the situation calls for a change in the way we approach such examinations and evaluations. "First and foremost, we should realize that board exams are exit exams to certify a student's ability, and not a yardstick to decide the entry of students into degree courses. Instead of approaching exit exams as competitive ones, wherein the abilities of the children to memorize is tested, the time is ripe to transform and base the education on continuous evaluation wherein values like ability to collaborate, cooperate and integrity are gauged alongside the subjects," he noted.

He says entrance exams for professional courses should change from measuring the abilities of students to crack the pattern to one that evaluates conceptual knowledge. "Right now, entrance exams mostly see students preparing based on previous years' question papers. This needs to change at least now, and we should have a two-pronged examination system with a preliminary one to filter students, and the mains, in which out-of-the-box questions and real-life scenarios are tested," he says.

Science students better off

PU-II science students aspiring for professional courses will have competitive entrance tests like JEE, NEET and CET to decide their fate, not so much the PU II board exams. Dr P Pramila, Academic Head, Narayana Group, says JEE Advanced and Mains no longer need second PU II marks, while for other students, institutes waited in 2019-2020 until September, and then began admissions.

Ramesh H N, Principal, University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE), said the only bottleneck was the entry to engineering colleges, for which marks obtained in the CET carries 50 per cent weightage and an equal weightage for PU II marks. "It is fair to give 100 per cent weightage to CET marks at this point," he says.

(With inputs from Vincent D'Souza, Marx Tejaswi, Ajith M S, Pramodkumar Vaidya, Ramkrishna Badseshi and Sunil Patil)

Foreign varsities working out modalities for PU II students

Sumit Rai, founder of EUGateway, that helps students prepare to study abroad, said South Asian, South-East Asian and East Asian countries are feeders for academic institutes in Canada, Australia, the UK and the USA. Hence, colleges abroad will have to work out a formula taking into account the government's marking scheme. At present, European countries are already bringing out relaxation in marks. Institutes abroad are working out on how to bring Indian students back on campus as the ecosystem around foreign universities thrives on students from abroad.

Financing paramedical students a problem?

The impact on those aspiring for paramedical courses is to be observed, says Prestige Medical Health Sciences (Noorie Educational Cultural Trust) CEO Dr MD Ahetasham, Consultant Radiologist at Narayana Hrudayalaya. "Several of them are from lower economic backgrounds and depend on scholarships and bank loans. The question is whether banks are notified about these changes to finance these students. "The government should look at a financial package and loan scheme for them."

No impact of retro-grading In skilled streams

Sandra Sequeira, Director (South), JD Institute Of Fashion Technology, is confident that the retrospective grading will have no effect on skilled courses like fashion, interior and jewellery design, where students register as early as February, and wait for PU-II results (in a perfunctory manner) before they get started with their design classes. When it comes to the industry too, they're moving and hiring, she says.

STUDENTS SHOULD TAKE UP ENTRANCE TESTS

Professor Prakash Sonwalkar, Dept of Computer Science Engineering, Jain College of Engineering, Belagavi, says, "Students must have to appear for the CET and NEET examinations to get enrolled for professional courses. The online class system must be improved. Group online classes should be held in rural area where digital connectivity is hard to access, he said.

B'luru top cop goes live on FB to address citizens' issues

ENS @ Bengaluru

CITY Police Commissioner **Kamal Pant** on Saturday went live on Facebook and directed policemen to restrict pushcart vendors from using megaphones in residential areas. Pant addressed several complaints raised by the public during the virtual interaction.

The aim of the session was to hear complaints from the public during the lockdown period and give suggestions to the police, Pant said.

Addressing the concern of a citizen, he requested people not to allow their children to play on the streets. "The purpose of the lockdown is to restrict movement so that we break the chain of Covid spread. However, allowing children to play outside should not create a problem for others," he added.

He informed that the traffic police are conducting contactless checking with the help of cameras and digital devices to record traffic violations. They are not stopping any vehicles to check for violations and this will be continued in the future too. Pant also told a resident that the police are helping in encouraging and supporting the vaccination drive.

Many citizens praised the police for their work during the pandemic and suggested they can help and join them for enforcement duties and night patrolling.

Death of 'Kerala IS recruit' being probed

M P PRASHANTH @ Kozhikode

SECURITY agencies are trying to verify Islamic State's (IS) claim that a Malayali engineer, who joined the terrorist organisation, has become a 'martyr' while fighting in Libya.

The reference to the Keralite appeared in an IS document titled 'Know your martyrs', which says Abu Bakr Al-Hindi was a Christian who embraced Islam while working in the Gulf. The document says he is the first 'Istishhadi' (suicide bomber or 'martyr' in an attack) from India to be killed on the African continent.

The IS document, unlike in the case of other Malayali cadre who were killed in Syria and Afghanistan, did not mention Abu Bakr's real name. There is no clue about his other whereabouts either, except that the person was born in a rich Christian family 'where there are many engineers.'

IS says Abu Bakr was working in Bengaluru before moving to the Gulf. "That was the first time he was in a complete Muslim environment," said the document. He was introduced to Islam through a pamphlet handed over to him while he was shopping at a market.

"He was shocked to know that Muslims believe in Jesus and respected him," said the document adding that Abu Bakr wanted to know more about Islam.

The IS handlers asked him to go to Libya where its activity was going strong. "As he was an engineer and his passport had Christian name, he flew easily to Libya," said the document. Three months after reaching the country, Abu Bakr was killed in an operation.

Security agencies have not yet identified the person. It is not known either as to when the incidents referred to in the document took place. Security experts had warned that the IS may shift their operations to Africa after the elimination of their strongholds in Syria and Afghanistan.

'PU II students to get marksheet by June-end'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AN Education Department official said that the second PU students will get their marks in the last week of June. Students who are not happy with their marks have the option of appearing for an exam later with repeaters and private students.

Higher Education Minister Dr CN Ashwath Narayan said a decision will soon be taken on considering only CET marks for admission to engineering courses.

Till now, minimum marks were the criterion for admission to engineering and medical courses. But as the exams are cancelled, a new decision will be taken after holding discussions with officials concerned and educational experts, Narayan said. As this will also require amendments to the existing Act, legal experts and Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa will be consulted, he added.

DEEN DAYAL UPADHYAYA GORAKHPUR UNIVERSITY, GORAKHPUR - 273009

Letter No. : 178/Committee /Advt. Entrance Examination - 2021 Date : 05/06/2021

Website : www.ddugu.ac.in

ADMISSION NOTICE 2021-22

Online Applications are invited from Indian & Foreign Residents for admission in Regular/Diploma courses to the following Programmes in different Departments of the University. The University was established under U.P. State University Act, 1973 in the year 1957. This was first University in U.P. after independence. The University with 8 faculties, 29 departments, 349 affiliated colleges admit on average of 1.4 Lakh students every year offering large number of Programmes. The University has green environment friendly, wi-fi enabled campus with modernized physical facilities, automated digital library with well stretched books. A residential-cum-affiliating state university, it can boost of a rich academic legacy, illustrates alumni empowered qualified and dedicated faculty members.

Online Application form, fee details, prospectus and other information will be available on University website www.ddugu.ac.in

1. UNDER GRADUATE PROGRAMMES (Admission through Entrance Test)

Bachelor of Arts (Three Years), Bachelor of Commerce (Three Years), B.Sc. (Home Science) (Three Years), B.Sc. (Physiotherapy) (Four Years), B.Sc., (Maths Group) (Three Years), B.C.A. (Three Years), B.Sc. (Ag.) (Four Years), B.Sc. (Medical Laboratory Technology) (Three Years), B.Sc. (Biology Group) (Three Years), B.B.A. (Three Years), B.A.LL.B. (Five Years Integrated), B. Tech. (Four Years), L.L.B. (Three Years).

2. POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES (Admission through Entrance Test)

Agricultural Entomology & Zoology, Agronomy, Genetics and Plant Breeding, Horticulture, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Extension, Ancient History, Archaeology & Culture, Biotechnology, Botany, Chemistry, Commerce, Defence & Strategic Studies, Economics, Education, Electronics, English, Environmental Science, Geography, Hindi, Medieval & Modern History, Industrial Microbiology, LL.M., Mathematics, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Sanskrit, Sociology, Statistics, Urdu, Visual Arts, Zoology, M.Ed., Food & Nutrition, Resource Management, Clothing & Textile, Continuing Education & Extension Work.

3. Ph.D. Programme in different disciplines

4. OTHER COURSES (Admission through Entrance Test)

B.P.Ed. (Two Years), P.G. Diploma in Disaster & National Security Management (One Year) and Certificate Courses.

The university offer International fellowship, Fellowship to PhD student, 100 fellowship for National/ International sports person. Please visit website www.ddugu.ac.in

Registrar

STATE BANK OF INDIA

Authorised Officer's Details:
Name: **Sri. Mahantesh K.**
E-mail Id: sbi.40690@sbi.co.in
Mobile No: 9449840160
Land Line No. (Office): 080-22114022.

Address of the Branch:
RACPC, Lalbagh Road,
73, 1st Floor, Lalbagh Road,
Sudhamnagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
Tel: 080-22114022
Email ID: sbi.40690@sbi.co.in

APPENDIX- IV-A
[See proviso to rule 8 (6)]
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of FinancialAssets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that thebelow described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive / Physical (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **07.07.2021**, for recovery of **Rs.79,80,966.00** (Rupees Seventy Nine lakh eighty thousand Nine hundred and Sixty Six Only) as on 28.05.2021 and further interest at contractual rate from 29.05.2021with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc.due to the State Bank of India, the Secured Creditor, from the borrower(s): **Sri Rajesh Mavaji,** s/o Belliappa Mavaji, resident of C104, "WHISPERING MEADOWS" Flat C1-403, RMV, 2nd Stage, Main Road, Dollar Colony, Bangalore-560-094.
The reserve price will be **Rs. 52,58,000.00** (Rupees Fifty Two lakhfifty eight thousand only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs. 5,25,800.00** (Rupees Five lakh Twenty five thousand eight hundred only). Last date for Earnest Money Deposit is **05.07.2021.**

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Tender No. SBI/Lalbagh/1/2020-21
Name of the title deed holder: Sri Rajesh Mavaji
All the piece and parcel of Residential Flat No B-010, in Ground Floor, having Super Built up area of 1328 Sq.ft in the building complex called "LOTUS PALACE" along with Two Covered car park space in the basement and undivided right interest 526.33 Sq.ft Schedule A property bearing Sy no.1/3, 1/4, and 1/5 feet, situated at Kasavanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and the same is bounded on the : East by: Road, West by: Private Property. North by : Munireddy Shyamanna Reddy Marappas Property, South by : Private Property.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in https://bankeauctions.com and Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.sbi.co.in & www.tenders.gov.in.

Place: Bangalore **Sd/-**
Date: 31.05.2021 **Authorized Officer**

STATE BANK OF INDIA

RACPC, Lalbagh Road,
73, 1st Floor, Lalbagh Road,
Sudhamnagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
Tel: 080-22114022, Email ID:sbi.40690@sbi.co.in

STATUTORY NOTICE FOR SALE UNDER SECURITY INTEREST(ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002

No: SBI/Lalbagh/1/2020-21 **Date:** 03.06.2021

To:
Sri. Rajesh Mavaji, S/o Mr Belliappa Mavaji, C104, "WHISPERING MEADOWS", Flat C1-403, RMV 2nd Stage, Main Road, Dollar Colony, Bangalore - 560-094.
Dear Sir,
Sub: Statutory Notice of thirty days for Sale under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 (herein after called the Rules)
Borrower : Sri. Rajesh Mavaji, A/c no: HTL38989700289
Whereas, the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India, had taken possession of the below mentioned properties on 22.02.2021 as per Sec. 13(4) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (herein after called the Act), which have been offered/charged as security by you towards your liabilities to the Bank amounting to Rs.79,80,966.00 (Rupees Seventy Nine lakh eighty thousand Nine hundred and Sixty Six Only) as on 28.05.2021 and further interest at contractual rate from 29.05.2021with incidental expenses, costs, charges etc.
Whereas you have failed to satisfy your liabilities to the Bank even after receipt of the notices under Section 13(2) and Section 13(4) of the Act issued by the undersigned. Therefore, the authorised officer of State Bank of India, in exercise of its rights granted under the Act and the said Rules, issues this noticeunder Rule 8(6) [Immovables] of the Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002, for sale of the secured assets to realize the above stated outstanding along with interest, costs, charges and expenses Please take notice that the secured assets charged/mortgaged to the Bank more fully described in the schedule hereunder shall be sold by public e-Auction to be held on **07.07.2021** through https://bankeauctions.com. For further details, please refer to the notice to be published in the newspapers and at websites viz. www.sbi.co.in,https://bankeauctions.com & www.tenders.gov.in.
As the envelope containing the said sale notice dated 31.05.2021, sent by registered A/D to the borrower / mortgager was returned unserved, this notice is now being published in the leading news papers after affixing a copy of the notice at conspicuous place of the working place/ residence of the borrower/ mortgager as per the provisions of the said Act.

SECURED INTEREST

Sl No	Description of the Property (Immovable assets)	Reserve Price
1	All the piece and parcel of Residential Flat No B-010, in Ground Floor, having Super Built up area of 1328 Sq.ft in the building complex called "LOTUS PALACE" along with Two Covered car park space in the basement and undivided right interest 526.33 Sq.ft Schedule A property bearing Sy no.1/3, 1/4, and 1/5 feet, situated at Kasavanahalli Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk and the same is bounded on the : East by: Road, West by: Private Property. North by : Munireddy Shyamanna Reddy Marappas Property, South by : Private Property.	**Rs. 52,58,000/-**

Date: 03.06.2021 Sd/-
Place: Bengaluru Authorised Officer

STATE BANK OF INDIA

RACPC MALLESHWARAM
No.97, Railway Parallel Road, Kumarapark West, Bangalore -560020
Ph: 080 25943732, 25943720. Fax: 080 25943729/3730 Email Id: racpc.bz1@sbi.co.in,

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER

NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANACIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT 2002 (HEREINAFTER CALLED 'ACT')

A Notice is hereby given that the below mentioned Borrowers have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest of the loan facility obtained by them from the Bank and the loans have been classified as Non Performing Assets (NPA). The notices were issued to them under Section 13(2) of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 on their last known addresses, but they have been returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of this public notice.

1. Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantor: Sri. Anup Kumar A S/o Sri. Apputty #13, Lakshmi Venkateshwara Nilaya, Near Renukamba Temple, Doddabommasandra, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097. **And also at:** No.S-111, Ground Floor, "Devikrupa", Property No.48/1, 8th Cross, Malleshwaram, Maramma Temple Road, Bangalore-560003
Account No. HTL-62095122585 NPA Date: 30.04.2021 Demand Notice Date: 18.05.2021
Outstanding Loan Amount: of Rs.16,24,832/- (Rupees Sixteen lakhs twenty four thousand eight hundred and thirty two only) as on **17.05.2021** You are also liable to pay future interest from **18.05.2021** at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc.
Schedule Property: Schedule 'A' Property All that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing No.48/1, situated at 8th Cross, Dathatreya Temple Street, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003 Site Measurement: East to West : 26 Ft North to South : 25 Ft Total Area : 650 Sq.Ft And bounded on: East by : Renukamba Temple, West by : Property belong to Appaiyappa, North by : Property belong to Byrappa, South by : Maramma Temple Road.
Schedule 'B' Property: (Undivided share in schedule 'A' Property sold by this Sale Agreement) All that piece and parcel of the land to an extent of 162.5 Sq.Ft. of undivided share, right, title and interest out of the area of 650 Sq.ft with all appurtenance thereto, in schedule 'A' property owned and held by the Vendor herein.
Schedule 'C' Property: (Flat sold by the sale Agreement) All that piece and parcel of the flat bearing No.S111, measuring 600 Sq.ft super built up in ground floor in the residential complex known as "DEVI KRUPA" constructed upon land in schedule 'A' property and schedule 'B' property being the undivided share, title and interest herein and common area such as 3 feet passage on the eastern side and 2 feet passage on the northern side, staircase, and open terrace.

2. Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantor: Sri. K Balakrishna S/o Sri. Chikka Veera Maye Gowd #67, K.H No.521, Opp. Ganesha Temple, Chikkabidarakallu, Nagasandra Post, Bangalore-560073. **Guarantor: Smt. M.Lalitha** W/o Sri. K Balakrishna, #67, K.H No.521, Opp. Ganesha Temple, Chikkabidarakallu, Nagasandra Post, Bangalore-560073
Account No. HTL-64035659401 NPA Date: 01.05.2021 Demand Notice Date: 18.05.2021
Outstanding Loan Amount: of Rs.4,86,443/- (Rupees Four lakhs eighty six thousand four hundred and forty three only) as on **17.05.2021** You are also liable to pay future interest from **18.05.2021** at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc.
Schedule Property: All that piece and parcel of the property No.67, Katha No.407, Assessment No. Old 40/7, New No.67, situated at Chikkabidarakallu, Opposite to Ganesha Temple, Nagasandra Post, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West : 30 feet and North to South : 60 feet totally measuring 1800 Sq.ft of built up area of Ground and First Floor including RCC roofed and mosaic flooring and Teak/Honne/Steel Doors & Windows including Bore Well and Municipal Supply and bounded on: East by: Property No.66, West by: Property No.68, North by: Property No.49 & 50, South by: 20 feet Road

3. Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantor: 1) Sri. Krishnappa S/oLate Mauniswamappa, **2) Sri. Srinivas K** S/o Sri. Krishnappa **Both are residing at:** No.742, Survey No.46, Pipe Line Road, Vrushabhavathi Nagar, Bangalore-560079. **Guarantor: Sri. C.Dhanashekar** S/o Late Narayanaswamy, 21, 7th Cross, 5th Main, L.N Puram, Bangalore-560021
Account No. HTL-64000622516 NPA Date: 01.05.2021 Demand Notice Date: 19.05.2021
Outstanding Loan Amount: of Rs.2,14,379/- (RupeesTwo lakhs fourteen thousand three hundred and seventy nine only) as on **18.05.2021** You are also liable to pay future interest from **19.05.2021** at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc.
Schedule Property: All that piece and parcel of property Vacant Site, bearing Municipal No.742, carved out of Sy.No.46 of Saneguruvanahalli Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, situated at Pipe Line Road, Kamala Nagar, Bangalore-560085, Ward No.16 and bounded on: East by: Maniyappa's Property, West by: Maniyappa's Property, North by: Road, South by: Paliyammal. Measuring: East to West : 28 feet North to South : 41 feet

4. Name and address of the Borrower & Guarantor: Sri. M Babu S/o Sri. Mariyappa #25-2, 2nd Cross, 1st Main, Shivapura, Peenya, Bangalore-560058. **And also at:** #07, Nelagetharanahalli Grama, Khatha No.238, Behind NTTF Peenya Industrial Area, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, , Bangalore-560058
Account No. HTL-64006669322 NPA Date: 01.05.2021 Demand Notice Date: 18.05.2021
Outstanding Loan Amount: of Rs.4,91,049/- (Rupees Four lakhs ninety one thousand forty nine only) as on **17.05.2021** You are also liable to pay future interest from **18.05.2021** at the contractual rate on the aforesaid amount together with incidental expenses, cost, charges, etc.
Schedule Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.7, situated at Nelagetharanahalli Grama, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Assessment No.54/2, Khatha No.238, measuring East to West : 30 feet and North to South : 52 feet held in the name of Sri. M Babu and bounded on the: East by:Site No.7, West by:Site No.8, North by: Government Halla, South by: Road.

The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above Borrower(s) and or their Guarantor(s) (wherever applicable) are hereby called upon to make repayment of outstanding loan amount within 60 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which further steps will be taken after expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.You are also put on notice that in terms of sub-section 13 of Section 13, you shall not transfer by sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule "C" Part II of this notice without obtaining written consent of the Bank.

Date : 05.06.2021 **Sd/- Authorised Officer & Chief Manager**
Place: Bangalore **State Bank of India**

"What anybody else thinks about you is really of no consequence. It's what you think of yourself." David Coverdale

NEEDED: A MINISTER FOR PRIVATISATION

HOPE is not a strategy. The truism often echoed in corridors of power reflects the gap between pronouncement and policy implementation. Intent, however sincerely declared, isn't a strategy either. Success calls for championing articulated agenda.

This week saw the 13-letter word 'privatisation' surface on the news map. India was informed that the Niti Aayog has finalised names of public sector banks to be privatised in the current financial year. Also in attendance is the buzz about ten more public sector enterprises cleared for privatisation/disinvestment.

The good news is that the much-speculated post-poll Bengal effect has not come to be and privatisation continues to be on the government's agenda. There is what is called the contingency effect, the mounting pressure for resources. Then there is the fact that crises are a high-octane propellant of change in India's political economy. The not-so-good news is that the list of entities is growing but the expected outcomes, sale and exit of government from defined non-strategic businesses, are yet in the realm of a promised land. In classic management speak, there is much motion and minimal movement.

THE THIRD EYE
SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of The Gated Republic, Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution, and Accidental India
shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com

It is true that the pandemic has imposed constraints on process and potential. But the saga of procrastination predates the arrival of the virus. The facts of the case are as follows: since 2016 the government has cleared or to quote government legalese "given in-principle approval" for "strategic disinvestment" of 35 CPSEs. There is no disputing the flow of announcements, notifications and declarations. But the fact remains that the only big tag disinvestment has been that of HPCL, which was bought by the government-owned ONGC.

Take the case of the sale of Air India. The Niti Aayog recommended the sale of the beleaguered airline, citing rationale and the fragile finances as part of its note in strategic disinvestment of CPSEs on May 12, 2017. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval for privatising Air India and its five subsidiaries on August 28. It took nearly 30 months for the issue of preliminary information memorandum for inviting expression of interest. In May 2021, the disinvestment of Air India is yet stalled on the runway.

It is not just privatisation. The virus of delays afflicts listing of state-owned enterprises too. On February 1, 2020, the government declared in Budget 2020-21 that it "now proposes to sell a part of its holding in LIC by way of IPO." In May 2021, the process of listing is yet underway — these include the legal challenges of converting LIC to a company, the definition of surplus and valuation. The opportunity lost in delays is worth noting — by one estimate in the fiscal year 2020-21, while the listing of LIC was left pending, the market value of stocks listed in Indian bourses vaulted by a stupendous $ 1.27 trillion.

There is the cost of opportunity lost and then there is the price being paid in losses. This column has repeatedly raised the flag on the enlarged presence of the government in businesses that it has no business to be and the continuing erosion of public wealth. Indeed, as per the government's data (SCOPE 2019) over 70 CPSEs are in losses and have cumulatively lost over ₹2.65 lakh crore in the past decade— that is roughly ₹6,500 crore a year, or ₹70 crore a day.

Time translates into money in the modern economy. Indeed, as time passes, many of the entities listed for sale, may no longer be saleable. And new factors are emerging — for instance, the rise of ESG norms will impact both interest in and valuation of even a prized enterprise such as BPCL and the disruption triggered by Fin-Tech in the financial sector threatens the viability of traditional banks.

It is true that for the first time since the liberalisation policies of 1991, and after decades of semantics over getting government out of business, the politically combustible phrase privatisation has found a place in this year's budget speech. But the mention needs empowered follow through action. Currently, the process of disinvestment is overseen by a Core Group of Secretaries. This template falls between necessary and sufficient conditions —systemic oversight without political push.

Thomas Sowell, the noted economist observed, "it is hard to imagine a more dangerous way of making decisions than by putting those decisions in the hands of people who pay no price for being wrong." It is no secret that the one brief period when the government succeeded in privatisation was under Atal Bihari Vajpayee when the process was led by an empowered minister, namely Arun Shourie. For intent to progress beyond mention, the government needs to empower and install a minister committed to championing the cause.

The magnitude of challenges faced by the political economy is yet unravelling. There is the immediate circumstance of debt and deficit — already the government is scheduled to borrow over ₹135 per hour this year and pay interest of ₹92 per hour and the impact of the second wave is yet to be quantified. There is also the emerging spectre of creative destruction of businesses and economic models across the economy. The need to invest in human infrastructure to equip a young demography for an uncertain future makes monetising calcified assets more urgent than ever.

TICKETS WITH PHOTOS OF YOU-KNOW-WHO

POINT OF VIEW
T J S GEORGE

IT spoke a great deal about the Government's concept of democracy when a journalist was charged with sedition for criticising the Government's Covid policy. The Supreme Court had to tell the Government that it was the right of journalists to criticise, even brutally, Government policies.

The judgment put it in words that must always be remembered by all, elected authorities and the public and journalists themselves. As the bench put it: The time is long past when the mere criticism of governments was sufficient to constitute sedition. The right to utter honest and reasonable criticism is a source of strength to the community, rather than a weakness.

This is all the more so when we are passing through a phase of history that is wrought with unpredictabilites. Old values are no longer respected and new values keep changing depending on who is resorting to them and when. Leaders are no longer driven by concepts of public good; private and personal interests carry more weight. Sometimes things lead to comic situations.

In the very modern state of Kerala, a new rule has come into force: Wedding receptions must be restricted to a guest list of 20. If only 20 people can attend, it makes no sense printing invitation cards. You can simply hand-write notes and send them off instead of printed invitations. But 20 or 200, you need wedding sarees and wedding shirts with the sheen of silk etcetera. To buy wedding clothes, you have to show wedding invitations to shopkeepers. What conundrum is this? Print invitation cards not to be sent to people, but to buy clothes with!

Okay, you can't fight with the Government, so you decide to print invitation cards. Suddenly you realise that it is lockdown and all printing presses are closed. This is what Churchill called a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma. No printing press, so no invitation card, so no buying of essentials.

These are unheard-of problems creating unheard-of situations. So words take on unheard-of meanings. "Mask" was a word associated with theatre. The outbreak of Covid made masks a habit. In India, even TV news readers do their jobs wearing masks that go close to the eyes, making it difficult for viewers to figure out what they are saying. Mask-wearing became such a universal habit that some countries made news by saying that they had grown "mask free". Israel cancelled the mandatory wearing of masks in the open-air in April. This was after completing one of the most rapid vaccine rollouts in the world. New Zealand made mask-wearing mandatory only in public transport, including flights. Bhutan, after vaccinating more than 90 per cent of its adult population in just two weeks, made itself mask-free.

Masks became irrelevant when a new policy concept was announced by the Modi Government. In an amazing brainwave, they set up what is called The Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Ltd. The Corporation promptly shortlisted Adani and eight other companies to submit proposals to develop the Shivaji Terminus in Mumbai, popularly known as VT (for Victoria Terminus).

> It is not difficult to imagine reforms in the railways after Adani takes charge. Every compartment will carry a photograph of the Prime Minister with an uplifting message. Every ticket will, of course, carry his photo. Every traveller will be given a chance to know that he is travelling by courtesy of the caring Prime Minister

The British had a habit of building railway stations as magnificent architectural showpieces. VT was perhaps the finest example of this. Imagine Adani re-doing this terminus complex. In the name of making Thiruvananthapuram airport more efficient, Adani increased fees on aircraft landing there. In the end, the passenger, otherwise known as citizen, will end up bearing the brunt of "modernisation".

VT station, spread across 2.8 hectares, is an architectural masterpiece. It has been an iconic landmark of Mumbai "With deep verandahs for ventilation, a blend of polychrome masonry and elaborate sculptural ornamentation, crowned by a towering masonry dome meant to dominate the skyline."

What proposal would Adani submit to the Railway Stations Development Corporation? To get an idea of which way the wind may blow, we must recall a recent news report headed 'Under Modi Rule, Ambani, Adani have doubled their wealth.' Then look at the Covid-19 vaccination certificate issued by the Government of India. Every certificate carries a photograph of Narendra Modi with a message. The effort to give Narendra Modi credit for all things good is quite frank.

It is not difficult to imagine reforms in the railways after Adani takes charge. Every compartment will carry a photograph of the Prime Minister with an uplifting message. Every ticket will, of course, carry his photo. Every traveller will be given a chance to know that he is travelling by courtesy of the caring Prime Minister. More innovations will follow because, after all, those who doubled their wealth need to triple them.

WHIRRING IN CORRIDORS OF POWER & POWERLESSNESS

POWER & POLITICS
PRABHU CHAWLA
prabhuchawla@newindianexpress.com
Follow him on Twitter @PrabhuChawla

MANTRIS MESS UP MESSAGE

Too many cooks spoil the brotherhood. NDA's top honchos have finally got it that BJP's aggressive and acerbic infodemic on pandemic management isn't getting the government any kudos. Those not even remotely connected with handling Covid perception are defending the government without a proper brief. With the Opposition berating the ruling party over public perception, BJP leadership has instructed motor-mouth ministers to stay schtum on Covid. Only Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** will give the macro picture. Commerce Minister **Piyush Goyal** (yet to speak) will brief the media on oxygen movement. Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Sadananda Gowda will run interference with the media concerning the supply of essential drugs. But Goyal's and Gowda's inputs have been as useful as a cylinder without oxygen. Many senior mantris gave contradictory statements because inter-ministerial communications are nil. For example, Nitin Gadkari, one of the most effective ministers, spoke frankly on May 18, "If the demand is more and supply is less, then it creates problems. So, instead of one, licence should be given to 10 vaccine companies." Twenty-four hours later, he walked back his words. He re-tweeted: "Yesterday.I had made a suggestion to ramp up vaccine production. I was unaware that before my speech. Mansukh Mandaviya had explained the government's efforts to ramp up vaccine production.I am glad and congratulate he [Mandaviya] and his team for this timely intervention in the right direction. I feel important to put this on record," he tweeted. Mandaviya is a state minister in Gowda's ministry and Modi has tasked him with managing the supply chain of all Corona-related drugs. Natch, the crossed wires between ministers were manna for the Congress. But BJP insiders are more concerned more about mandarin misspeak that hides more than they reveal to their bosses. The NDA which was setting the agenda has discovered the virtue of speaking in one voice rather than myriad monologues. No wonder, numerous hyper active ministers and social media mandarins have gone into hiding.

TOO MANY GANDHIS

After its whipping in the recent state elections, the Congress still can't find its feet. The Ashok Chavan Committee's report on poll reverses have skipped the real villains and chosen to point a finger at some satraps; the document will be shelved as usual. The party isn't able to plug into the new Gandhi Dynasty dynamics. Surviving on meagre political rations, Congress leaders are finding it tough to handle three Gandhis simultaneously without hurting the feelings of any one of them. Historically, the party has had a dominating duo from the family. Jawaharlal Nehru and daughter Indira Gandhi called the shots in the party. The father ensured that Indira became the youngest Congress president. After her progeny Rajiv and Sanjay grew up, Sanjay became mama's advisor in early 70s. He created a parallel outfit and picked over half the MP candidates who won the 1980 Lok Sabha elections. While the old guard needed Indira for survival, a large part of the party became Sanjay loyalists. Soon after his death Rajiv arrived. The Indira-Rajiv combo controlled the government and the party. Rajiv inducted his Doon School mates and technocrats to guide him after his mother's assassination. For the next couple of years, he was the only Gandhi with total control over the party. Later on, **Sonia** became his invisible advisor and Congress leaders viewed her as a parallel power centre. After Rajiv's assassination, she retreated into silence only to return in 1998 as party chief. Until 2004, she was the only Gandhi ruling the roost. **Rahul** joined mother and won in Amethi. Since then, there were only two Gandhis at the helm. Sonia is the unifier; Rahul has his own team and became party president for a short period. Now, **Priyanka** Gandhi's foray has disrupted the equation. Congress followers are confused over the new family troika. The rank and file are at sea without well-defined separation of responsibilities between the brother and the sister. Priyanka, the General Secretary in-charge of Uttar Pradesh whose brief is to revive the outfit in the state, is a pan-India political frequent flyer. Rahul is keeping away from his old state. Which of the three Gandhis is the most powerful? Congress netas are hard-pressed to figure the G-force egging on the rebels in Punjab and Rajasthan against the chief ministers. For the first time, the Congress appears to be victims of Plenty of Gandhis.

VISTA IS CENTRE'S TROUBLE

No communication is bad communication. What is the real bill for the Central Vista? What are its contours? After letting the dirt fly over its actual size and dimensions, the government is finally on the defensive. The cost is ₹13,000 crore and not ₹20,000 crore as has been publicised without a word from the government. The money will be spent over the next five years and not in one year and is the estimated expenditure for building a new Parliament, while the Central Vista is for recreational purposes. The whole project will house all the Central government offices scattered across the city, the Prime Minister's residence, the Vice-President's House and a world class convention centre. Of course, the project is meant to be a precious and everlasting gift to the nation, but history would record it as a puerile mid-pandemic political circus. The Opposition, including the Congress, is calling the Vista a monumental waste of time and money solely to satisfy the Prime Minister's ego. Actually, when it is completed, it would be recorded in history as one of the most innovating architectural marvels conceived by Indians, developed by Indians and for Indians. So claims the government. So far, India is known for monuments and buildings built during the Mughal or British rule.

WHAT A GAS!

Petroleum product prices are on fire. But political parties aren't bonding to douse it fast. Instead, they are at each other's throats over Pandemic Panic and seeking accountability. Barring, a few inane tweets and press statements, no party has a sore throat after demanding a reduction in the prices of petrol and diesel which almost touched ₹100 a litre. In one month alone, oil companies have hiked prices over a dozen times at a time when the global cost of crude is either stable or declining. All states which want GST on Corona drugs to be withdrawn are mum on the rollback of fuel taxes. Petroleum products contribute over 20 per cent of the revenue of both the Centre and the states. It varies from state to state. Around half of the price of a litre of gas goes into government coffers. Petroleum products have been kept out of the GST regime so that no single party gets a bad name for fleecing consumers. Since states have no desire to reform tax collection and leakages, they are willing partners-in-sin. Looks like India is seeing Cooperative Federalism joined at the hip at least on the fleecing through fuel.

QUOTE CORNER

These seismic tax reforms are something the UK has been pushing for and a huge prize for the British taxpayer – creating a fairer tax system fit for the 21st century. This is a truly historic agreement....

Rishi Sunak, Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer

As a Catholic, I am deeply disappointed by the position the Catholic Church has taken now and over the past many years. We expect the Church to step up and take responsibility for its role in this (tragedy at indigenous schools)

Justin Trudeau, Canada Prime Minister

The biggest barrier for me was probably the fact that I didn't necessarily think that the traits that I held and valued the most were those that would be easily accepted in politics

Jacinda Ardern, New Zealand Prime Minister

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Shelve myopic policy

Pinarayi govt 2's policy of borrowing and spending as envisaged in the first budget raises alarm about the deeper debt trap the state is moving into. Pandemic cannot be an excuse for recklessness. What has appointing ministers' private secretaries, for example, at a fat monthly salary of `1.48 lakh (TNIE, June 2) got to do with the pandemic? The LDF should not think that people's mandate bestows on them any right to be prodigal.

P Mangalachandran, Kannur

Railways showing the way

This has reference to the news 'SR adopts green energy and cleanliness methods.' Despite having one of the largest networks in the world, the general impression about the Railways is adverse and negative. But the news that Southern Railway has saved Rs100 crore by HOG Head on Generation ought to be a happy news for green activists. That solar and wind energy will be harnessed by SR shows that a public sector is environment conscious. This should inspire both larger private and public organisations to take diligent steps to conserve our planet.

S Arjun Prasanna, Bengaluru

Cancel SSC exams

The Centre and many states have cancelled 10th and 12th class exams in view of the pandemic. But Andhra Pradesh stands on its fixed decision about SSC exams. The government should not make taking this a prestigious issue. While it is giving many reasons to conduct the exam, instability in covid cases as well as tensed students, teachers should be kept in mind. It would be wise for the government to immediately cancel the SSC exams leaving aside its stubborn stand in these uncertain times.

D Ravikumar, Vizag

Wise move by RBI

RBI has done well to leave benchmark interest rates unchanged and reiterate that it would keep accommodative stance to nurture economic recovery. RBI cut the growth forecast to 9.5 per cent and inflation expectations were raised, signalling that the road ahead could be bumpy. Governor Shaktikanta Das pledged the RBI would do all it could to ensure that the economy recovers before looking toward any shift in stance. How soon we get back on track of economic recovery will also depend on the government and other stakeholders getting their act together.

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

Not the time to unlock

Tamil Nadu's extended lockdown with so many relaxations seem to be a comedy. These relaxations are sufficient to increase corona in the state. Allowing meat and vegetable shops to operate between 6am to 5pm will end up being disastrous. Definitely, the lockout with unscientific relaxations like this is unfortunate decision by the Stalin government and shows his reluctance to take a firm stand on the issue.

VS Ganeshan, Bengaluru

Learning should go on

Due to the pandemic, CBSE, CICSE and State Boards have cancelled the Class XII exam. But, the students may ditch books which may lead to a major problem in coming times. Though the exam is cancelled, the schools should be instructed to guide students through online classes so that learning is not stopped. By this only, we can help the students to build their future.

Sarmistha Pradhan, Cuttack

Needless gagging of voices

Gagging retired personnel of investigating agencies from penning down their experiences is uncalled for. The treatises of such erudite personnel in the past enriched budding officials in particular and people at large. It also provides a window of opportunity to the governments to do course correction and tweak its national policies. In this dynamic age, stonewalling objective and scholarly articles is a disservice to the nation. This could be the tip of the iceberg.

Deepak Singhal, Noida

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
18th hike in one month! Merciless assault on people's livelihoods. Withdraw the world's highest taxes on petroleum products

Jairam Ramesh @Jairam_Ramesh
Singular focus of the ongoing environmental law 'reform' process under Modi Sarkar is environmental clearance not protection.

Prakash Javadekar @PrakashJavdekar
India is one of the few countries where forest cover has increased in the last decade. It covers 24.56% of geographic area of the country

COVID TRACKER

2,86,94,879
TOTAL CASES

2,67,95,549
TOTAL RECOVERIES

3,44,082
TOTAL DEATHS

36,11,74,142
TOTAL TESTS

5.78%
POSITIVITY RATE

15,55,248
ACTIVE CASES

5.73%
OF TOTAL INFECTIONS ACTIVE

93.08%
RECOVERY RATE

23
CONSECUTIVE DAYS NUMBER OF RECOVERIES OUTNUMBER DAILY NEW CASES

HELPLINE NUMBERS

1075: National helpline
1098: Child helpline
14567: Senior citizens helpline
08046110007: Helpline of NIMHANS for psychological support

Source: Union Health Ministry

Drones to sanitise hosps

Ranchi: In a first, drones are being used for sanitisation of hospitals and residential colonies in Dhanbad by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL). According to BCCL officials, the decision was taken to cover large open areas which otherwise remains unattended. These drones can spray 10 litres of sanitiser by flying 15 minutes in the air. A Hyderabad-based company has been roped in to provide the services, which has deployed two drones.

Biden praised for vax aid

New Delhi: Top American legislators have said countries like India are in desperate need of Covid vaccines and hailed Biden administration for its decision to distribute 25 million doses to them. "I'm pleased that the Administration is implementing its global vaccine distribution plan. US vaccines are far safer and effective than those coming out of China or Russia," said Senator Mitt Romney.

U'khand to unlock further

Dehradun: The Uttarakhand government is planning to relax curfew restrictions in five more districts from June 8. Bageshwar, Champawat, Haridwar, Dehradun and Udham Singh Nagar have been recording positivity rate below 5% for the past one week. Subodh Uniyal, cabinet minister and spokesperson of the government, said, "Any such decision will be taken on the basis of the Covid situation. We are monitoring the situation closely."

CIRCLES OF LIFE

Villagers sit in circles following Covid-19 norms during a Janta Darbar organised by Jharkhand DGP in Saraikela Kharsawan district on Saturday | PTI

Maharashtra announces five-level plan to unlock, Mumbai & Pune not in it yet

LEVELS	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Criteria	Positivity less than 5% AND oxygen beds occupancy is less than 25%	Positivity less than 5% AND oxygen bed occupancy between 25% and 40%	Positivity between 5% and 10% AND oxygen bed occupancy more than 40%	Positivity rate between 10% and 20% AND oxygen bed occupancy is more than 60 per cent	Positivity rate more than 20% AND oxygen bed occupancy is more than 75%
General Guiding Principles	Regular/CAB/ control over super spreaders like travel by local trains/ marriages etc	Minimize attendance in closed spaces and public places/ minimize group movements	Minimize movement post 5 PM on weekdays and on weekends. Shops can be open up to 4 pm. Malls remain shut	No movement past 5 pm on weekdays. No movement on weekends, without emergency reasons. Essential shops open up to 4 pm	No movement without urgent/emergency reasons. No social gatherings. Home delivery of food from restaurants allowed

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

THE Maharashtra government issued unlock guidelines on Saturday. It will happen in five levels, depending the Covid-19 situation in different places. In first the level, where positivity rate is under 5 per cent and oxygen bed occupancy less than 25 per cent, everything can reopen. Mumbai and Pune are not in this category yet.

There are 18 districts in Maharashtra fulfilling the first level criteria. As per the government order, essential and non-essential services, malls and entertainment arenas can start with immediate effect. Nagpur, with a positivity rate less than five per cent, can also return to normalcy.

For the second level, where positivity rate is under 5 per cent and oxygen bed occupancy is between 25 per cent and 40 per cent, the majority of restrictions are lifted, although certain activities are still not permitted. In these places, malls, restaurants, shopping centres and cinema halls will open with 50 per cent capacity. Sports activities are allowed with limited attendance and in limited periods.

In level three, positivity rate has to be between 5 per cent and 10 per cent, with oxygen bed occupancy under 40 per cent. Shops in these places will be open till 4 pm. Malls and theatres will remain shut and restaurants can function with 50 per cent capacity up to 4 pm. Home delivery will continue, without time limits. Public and social gatherings with 50 per cent capacity will be allowed.

For level four, positivity should be between 10 to 20 per cent and oxygen bed occupancy should not be more than 60 per cent. In such places, public movement will be restricted after 5 pm, excluding essentials services. Essential shops will be open till 4 pm, while non-essential shops will be shut, along with malls and theatres. Restaurants will be allowed to deliver food. Social gatherings are not permitted. For weddings, only 25 people will be permitted to attend.

In level five, with positivity rate of more than 20 per cent and oxygen bed occupancy less than 75 per cent, there will be no movement except for essential work and medical emergency. Shops dealing in essential items will be open till 4 pm. Malls, restaurants and theatres will remain closed.

Home delivery of food from restaurants will be allowed in these areas. However, there shall be absolutely no social or public gatherings.

NOT NOW

India opposes vax passport at G7 meeting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

INDIA has opposed the Covid vaccine passport at the G7 meeting of health ministers calling the initiative hugely discriminatory.

"At this stage of the pandemic, it's pertinent to also discuss India's concern over the idea of a vaccine passport. Considering the lower levels of vaccination in developing countries in contrast to the developed countries and still unaddressed issues related to equitable and affordable access, supply and distribution of effective vaccines, India would propose that implementation of vaccine passports will be hugely discriminatory and disadvantageous to developing countries," health minister Harsh Vardhan said.

The minister suggested the initiative be implemented after taking into account evidence on efficacy of vaccines 'under the overarching coordination of WHO duly attending to the anomaly of access and affordability as it exists today'.

Third wave fear grows, genome sequencing lags

Genome sequencing of 15K samples done in India, should have been at least 1 lakh

SUMI SUKANYA DUTTA @ New Delhi

INDIA, which witnessed a devastating second Covid-19 wave, may still not be doing enough genome sequencing of SARS-CoV-2 samples necessary to stay ahead of the virus and predict next waves in time, according to experts. So far, genome sequencing of about 15,000 samples across India has been carried out, while the experts say that considering India's population, the number should have been at least 1 lakh, if not more.

It also falls short of the target set by the Centre in December-January to test 5% of all positive samples in every state as part of its INSACOG initiative — a consortium of several institutions under the National Centre for Disease Control — to carry out extensive genomic surveillance of Covid in India. The exercise, experts say, is necessary after it emerged that a new variant B.1.617, which is highly transmissible had been driving the second wave, apart from the B.1.17 variant.

"Considering India's size, we ought to be sequencing more, around 1 lakh," former ICMR director general N K Ganguly told this newspaper. "Currently, we have sequenced 15,000 samples, which is very little. The more density of genome sequencing we can increase, the more information we can get, and we have to do this smartly." He advised that India should make a repository in which samples from various parts of the country can be genome sequenced.

Virander Singh Chauhan of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology said the country was able to identify new variants, including the B.1.167 and its sublineages and the spread of the UK variant, but will need extensive sequencing for better surveillance and mapping the spread of mutant. The experts who have put together a report 'The Road Ahead for Smart Covid Testing and Tracing in India', released by The Rockefeller Foundation, also say just identifying emerging variants may not be enough, unless there is a mechanism to translate data from sequencing into public health measures to effectively protect populations before it is too late.

Manisha Bhinge, MD, programmes, health initiative at the Rockefeller Foundation, said an enabling culture of broad testing along with accelerated and methodical genomic sequencing and data integration will be essential to monitor variants of concern and assess the effectiveness of countermeasure technologies.

"This will take us a step closer to having early warning systems to pre-empt potential outbreaks," she said.

Respite for 60-plus in second wave

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR, ANURAAG SINGH, PRANAB MONDAL & MUKESH RANJAN
@ Patna/Bhopal/Kolkata/Ranchi

FEWER senior citizens died of Covid-19 in the second wave in some states as compared to the first one last year. Also, there was a steep rise in the fatality rate among the youth and middle aged people during the second wave, according to data accessed and analysed by this newspaper.

The sharpest fall in the fatality rate among persons aged more than 60 was witnessed in Bihar, figures available till the end of May has revealed. The death in this category was about 45% last year, this fell to just 2% in the second wave.

Madhya Pradesh has also seen a dip, it was down to 13% this time from 20% during the first wave. West Bengal recorded a marginal fall, from 43% to 41%, while in Uttarakhand it came down from 26.2% to 24.2%.

About 27% of the population is in the 25-44 age bracket. A comparative study of the data from several states shows that cases of infection and deaths have been higher in this age bracket.

An art teacher with umbrellas painted in memory of Covid warriors in Mumbai | PTI

Bihar provides a fair reflection of this situation. Deaths in the 26-35 and 36-50 age groups rose from 10% to 20% and 35% to 45%, respectively, in the second wave. In Madhya Pradesh in the 18-44 years population, positive cases climbed to 58% from 49%. West Bengal's death toll in this group reached 10% after 6% in the first wave.

In Chhattisgarh, deaths in the 14-30 section shot up to 243 from 38. The hills of Uttarakhand witnessed the death tally in the 30-39 group touch 9% from 5.3%. Jharkhand recorded 12.4% deaths in persons aged between 30 and 44. This was 9.14% last year.

The trend is different in Maharashtra. The number of positive cases has remained more or less the same in the state that suffered most in both waves of the pandemic. In the first wave last year, 38.53% of cases in Maharashtra were from the 21-40 group. This figure is around 40% in the second.

"The mortality rate in the second wave among people in the age group 25-50 has been higher than the first. This could be because fewer people got vaccinated and also because they did not adhere to safety protocols. Among people above 60, mortality rate remained restricted because of the higher ratio of vaccination and enhanced awareness levels after the first wave," said Rajiv Ranjan, a senior member of Indian Medical Association and physician-cum-researcher in Patna.

But a doctor in Kolkata said it was too early to analyse the reasons. "We are yet to identify the exact reason. A majority of the people in this age bracket are yet to be vaccinated. But it's a fact that many of these patients, who had no comorbidity, died of Covid," said Sumana Ganguly, who is attached to a private hospital in Kolkata.

Post-vax infection rate 1.6%: Study

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

AMONG those fully vaccinated, breakthrough infection rate with Covid-19 was found to be 1.6%, the largest such study from India so far has shown. Another one by top government agencies has found the B.1617.2 variant to be causing a large number of such cases in Delhi

A person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the second dose of the vaccine is administered. The study was carried out at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Science and Research, Chandigarh, and has been published in the prestigious *The New England Journal of Medicine*. It followed 12,248 healthcare workers, 7,170 of whom had received the first dose of vaccine, with 3,650 receiving the second dose.

Researchers found that a total of 184 of 7,170 healthcare workers (2.6%) tested positive after receiving at least one dose of vaccine and the median time between receipt of the first dose and the positive test was 44 days. A total of 72 of 3,650 healthcare workers (2%), on the other hand, tested positive after the second dose and the median time from receipt of the second dose to the positive test was 20 days.

These findings come soon after cases of 47 breakthrough infections, at a rate of 0.5%, were reported from a hospital in the Unites States among healthcare workers who were fully vaccinated with either vaccines by Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna.

Coronil in Covid kit? IMA not amused

VINEET UPADHYAY @ Dehradun

AFTER learning that Ramdev has suggested to the Uttarakhand government to include Patanjali Yogpeeth's Coronil in its Covid-19 kit distributed among patients with mild or no symptoms, Uttarakhand chapter of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has written to the Chief Secretary to take action.

Saying that Coronil with allopathic drugs shall amount to 'mixopathy' — a cocktail of allopath and Ayurved not permitted as per rulings of the Supreme Court — the IMA added that high courts in several states have also ruled that 'mixopathy' is not allowed.

Dr Ajay Khanna, secretary of the Uttarakhand chapter of IMA, said: "After learning about Ramdev's proposal to the state government, we decided to raise the issue proactively."

The letter says: "Would be highly obliged if you kindly take prompt action and direct the Secretary Health, Govt of Uttarakhand accordingly. This is for your information, necessary action and appraisal of the Hon'ble Chief Minister."

The Covid kit is provided by the health department to people diagnosed with mild or no symptoms in home isolation. The kit includes a thermometer, paracetamol tablets, Vitamin D, zinc and ivermectin tablets (anti-parasitic drug).

Most public hospitals in the country lack infrastructure for ideal health care

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana was launched in September 23, 2018. It provides health insurance of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year to poor households for secondary and tertiary healthcare hospitalisation. Those covered under the scheme are mainly manual scavenger families, primitive tribal groups, domestic workers, street vendors, cobblers and hawkers, among others.

Hospital admissions in private facilities as compared to public sector institutions are not uniform among the states. The rti information reveals that in some states such as uttar pradesh, maharashtra, chhattisgarh, jharkhand, haryana, tamil nadu and andhra pradesh, admissions in private hospitals were 300-400% more than in public healthcare facilities.

In up, there were 5,19,388 private hospital admissions but only 1,50,282 admissions were in public health facilities. Similarly in maharashtra, there were 3,14,419 private hospital admissions in comparison with 89,026 public hospital admissions.

In sharp contrast to these two states, in kerala public healthcare facilities have played a dominant role in admissions under the scheme. The state recorded 5,75,872 admissions in private hospitals whereas there were 14,14,712 admissions in public hospitals. Karnataka also showed a similar trend with 2,38,793 private hospital admissions and 10,78,237 public hospital admissions under the scheme. Many northeastern states, including assam, tripura and meghalaya, also showed a similar trend.

For various reasons, public hospitals in the country don't inspire confidence

Experts blamed the poor state of public healthcare infrastructure for fewer admissions. Chandrakant lahariya, a public health and policy expert, said people do not prefer government hospitals because either they are not available or they do not provide competitive services, resulting in government money going to the private sector.

"Government is buying services from the private sector in the short term. But, there doesn't appear any intention or desire to strengthen public sector facilities. There is a lot of demand for health services in india but they are not available," he said.

Former union health secretary k sujatha rao blamed poor condition of public health facilities. "Once you take out the financial barrier where you do not have to pay, would you rather go and stand in queues at aiims or will you go to apollo? Obviously you will go to apollo which is cleaner and easier. That is the reason."

The national health authority, which implements the ayushman bharat scheme, said: "one of the objectives of the scheme is to provide beneficiaries with the option to avail of quality healthcare services across both public and hitherto inaccessible private healthcare providers. It is up to the individual beneficiary as to where they would prefer healthcare treatment."

DRUG FOUND IN JEEP

Contraband worth ` 4 crore was recovered from a jeep involved in a road accident which left four people seriously injured on Delhi-Lucknow National Highway near Bareilly on Saturday

67 HAMLETS IN MAHARASHTRA FACING ACUTE WATER SHORTAGE

	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	36	27	Mumbai	31	28
Bhopal	35	25	Panaji	32	26
Jaipur	37	28	Patna	38	27
Amritsar	39	26	Lucknow	39	27
Chennai	32	27	Port Blair	31	25
Kolkata	38	29	Imphal	29	20
Srinagar	30	14	Chandigarh	38	23

AMID LOCKDOWN

Nearly 1,800 hectares of wildlife habitat diverted for infra projects in 2020

RICHA SHARMA @ New Delhi

When the entire nation was under lockdown last year, the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) green-lighted the diversion of 1,792.51 hectares of wildlife habitat in protected areas, including de-notification of protected areas in a wildlife sanctuary, tiger reserves and national parks, for infrastructure projects

Analysis of wildlife clearances in 2020 by the Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment shows that the SC-NBWL conducted three meetings in April, July and October, during which a total of 82 proposals were considered.

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is a statutory board constituted under Section 5 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. The NBWL is chaired by the Prime Minister. The standing committee of NBWL is responsible for carrying out its various duties and functions.

Of the 82 proposals, 25 were applications for diversions within protected areas (Pas), three proposals were for de-notification (deletion) of areas within a wildlife sanctuary for boundary alteration, 23 proposals were for diversions from tiger habitats and the remaining 31 sought diversion within the 10-kilometer radius (default eco-sensitive zone) from the boundary of the Protected Areas (PAs).

Most of the projects cleared were for linear diversion within sanctuaries, national parks and tiger reserves. Linear projects are especially destructive because they fragment the whole landscape and interrupt the movement range of animals. "A total diversion of 1,792.51 hectares (ha) land was approved under 48 projects in the year 2020. From these, 24 proposals for diversion of 160.33 ha from PAs and 29 proposals from Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) of PA and Tiger Reserves were approved. Besides this, two of the three proposals for de-notification of the area from sanctuaries were granted approvals. Four proposals for policy changes were approved and four out of five modifications were recommended," the report said.

Modi, Xi capable of resolving disputes: Putin

Russian president warns against intervention by 'extra-regional powers' in issues between the two countries

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin on Saturday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are "responsible leaders" capable of solving the bilateral issues between the two countries.

In an interview with PTI, Putin said it important that "no extra-regional power" interfere in matters between the two countries. "Yes, I do know that there are some issues related to India-China relations. But, there are always a lot of issues between neighbouring countries. I know the attitude of both the Prime Minister of India and the President of China. These are very responsible people and they earnestly treat one another with the utmost respect and I believe that they will always arrive at a solution to any issue that they might face. It is important that no other extra-regional power is interfering with that," he said.

On the Quad grouping, the Russian president said it was for not Moscow to tell any country not to participate in any grouping. However, he said there should be no grouping against any country.

Russia has been critical of the Quad, comprising the US, India, Japan and Australia, and has called it an effort by Washington to keep a check on Beijing's ambitions. On the impact of growing Russia-China relations on Russia's ties with India, especially on defence and security cooperation, Putin said, "We highly appreciate such a high level of cooperation with our Indian friends. These relations are of a strategic nature. They cover a whole range of avenues of our cooperation in economy, energy and hi-tech. In defence, and I am not just talking about the purchase of Russian arms...We have very deep profound relations with India based on trust." Putin also asserted that India is Russia's only partner that they are working together with on "elaborating and manufacturing, especially in India, advanced weapon systems and technologies but that is not where our cooperation ends because our cooperation is multifaceted."

Nadda holds meet with BJP general secretaries

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE BJP national president J P Nadda on Saturday chaired a meeting of the party's national general secretaries in New Delhi.

This is the first major in-person meeting being held by the party since the start of the second wave of the Covid pandemic. Sources said the two-day meeting will focus on strategies to be adopted ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections.

A discussion on the situation arising out of the pandemic is also on agenda.

The first round of the meeting was held at the residence of the BJP chief J P Nadda on Saturday evening. Senior party functionaries including B L Santosh, C T Ravi, Dushyant Gautam, Arun Singh, D Purudeshwari, Dilip Saikia, and others participated.

The meeting comes days after the party's central leadership sent a team to Uttar Pradesh to resolve a growing discord within the state unit between the government and the party organisation. The party has already begun preparation for the Assembly elections in the state.

Besides Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, and Gujarat will hold Assembly elections next year.

Some party insiders believe that infighting and Covid-19 are likely to pose major challenges for the party ahead of the Assembly elections.

The meeting may also discuss the party's performance in recently-held assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, the source said.

After loss in West Bengal despite improving its tally, sources said the BJP will leave no stone unturned to retain UP, a victory much required for the party to strengthen its position for the 2024 elections.

EVICTION ORDER

Protesting MP doctors get notice to vacate hostel

THE stand-off between some 3,000 junior doctors and the Madhya Pradesh government continued into the sixth day on Saturday with the former refusing to back down despite the High Court calling their stir illegal.

On Saturday, the state government sent eviction notices to the doctors, who had resigned in protest following the HC order on Thursday, to vacate their hostels.

"They have asked us to vacate the government hostel in Bhopal, and also pay bond fees (which runs into several lakh rupees". When they can serve us eviction notices, why not release a written order increasing our stipend," Madhya Pradesh Junior Doctors Association secretary Ankita Tripathi said.

She said JUDA functionaries had tried to resolve the issue by seeking an appointment with Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

While Tripathi said there was no plan as of now to approach the Supreme Court against the MP HC order, some others said it was an option.

Meanwhile, MP Medical Education Minister Vishwas Sarang told PTI the state government had given a stipend hike of 17 per cent but the doctors were adamant it should be 24 per cent. *PTI*

Ex-IAS officer gets notice over tweets against Yogi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bhopal

RETIRED Uttar Pradesh cadre IAS officer Surya Pratap Singh, who is already facing six FIRs in various cities of the state over his tweets, has now received an e-mail from Twitter, saying the Indian law enforcement has asked the micro-blogging site to take action against him.

The ex bureaucrat shared a photo of the e-mail he received from Twitter. "In the interest of transparency, we are writing to inform you that Twitter has received a request from Indian Law Enforcement regarding your Twitter account @suryapsingh_ias that claims the following content violates laws of India."

Undeterred by the development, the ex bureaucrat tweeted, "Now the UP government wants action against my twitter account by sending legal notice. What is the intention? Suspending the account? Suppressing my freedom of speech and expression? Why are you afraid of criticism, aren't you sowing seeds of undemocratic thought?"

Singh also tweeted about the UP police questioning him for six hours at his residence on Saturday. "The path of truth is fraught with difficulties, but I will continue to walk on it," Singh tweeted. Meanwhile, the Unnao district police has responded to Singh's tweet about him being questioned by cops. "Notice under Section 41A CrPc was served as part of the normal investigation process. The Investigating Officer is probing the case in pursuance of High Court guidelines and well laid down legal process."

CLEANSING THE NATURE

A municipal vehicle sprays disinfectant to sanitise trees on the World Environment Day on Saturday in Allahabad | PTI

Farmers set fire to copies of Centre's agri laws in parts of Punjab, Haryana

Members of various farmers organisations burn copies of the three farm laws outside the residence of Punjab BJP spokesman Bhupesh Aggarwal in Patiala | PTI

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

FARMERS set fire to copies of the Centre's three farm laws on Saturday near the residences and offices of BJP leaders in Punjab and Haryana as they observed 'Sampoorna Kranti Diwas' to mark the day of the promulgation of the farm ordinances last year.

At various places in both Punjab and Haryana, farmers carrying black flags raised slogans against the BJP-led NDA government for not scrapping these laws which, they said will destroy the farming community.

At Phagwara in Punjab, farmers assembled near the GT Road and marched towards the residence of Union minister Som Parkash at Urban Estate and burnt copies of the farm laws. The Punjab Police barricaded the road leading to Prakash's house to prevent protesters from reaching there. Parkash was not at home at the time of the protest. The farmers also held a protest near Prakash's residence in Mohali.

In Hoshiarpur, farmers took out a protest march from local Gurdwara Singh Sabha to the local BJP office at Shastri market where they then burned copies of the legislation. Protests were also at Amritsar, Jalandhar, Mohali, Abohar, Barnala, Nawanshahr, and Patiala.

In neighbouring Haryana, the police lathi-charged farmers in Panchkula as they blocked the Zirakpur-Kalka highway. They were earlier stopped by the police as they marched towards Haryana Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta's residence. In Gurugram, the farmers blocked the main road in front of a BJP MLAs' office. In Ambala, farmers held a demonstration near the residence of Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij.

Assam gets its sixth national park on World Environment Day

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Guwahati

RAIMONA in Assam's Kokrajhar district was declared as the state's sixth national park. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma made an announcement in this regard on the occasion of World Environment Day on Saturday.

The state's Environment and Forest Department has issued a notification declaring Raimona as a national park.

The chief minister said a process was on to also convert the Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary into a national park. Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya called the announcements a piece of welcome news for conservationists and nature enthusiasts. The Raimona park, which has a rich flora and fauna and falls under the Bodoland Territorial Region, is a part of a contiguous forest patch with an area of 422 sq km, covering the northern part of the Ripu Reserve Forest that forms the westernmost buffer to Manas Tiger Reserve in the southern foothills of Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot. It runs northwards till the Indo-Bhutan international boundary on the north and the remaining part of Ripu Reserve Forest on the south. "Historically, the area was a part of the migratory route of the faunal species from Himalayan Mountain, Indo-Malayan and Indo-Chinese realms towards the west and peninsular Indian realm species to the east," a forest official said.

> **Historically, the area was a part of the migratory route of the faunal species from Himalayan Mountain, Indo-Malayan and Indo-Chinese realms towards the west and peninsular Indian realm species to the east**
>
> Forest Department

The new national park shares contiguous forest patches of Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and Jigme Singye Wangchuk National Park in Bhutan, creating a transboundary conservation landscape of 2,400 sq km.

Animals at the Raimona National Park in Assam | PTI

EXPRESS READ

Angry mob torches Assam Rifles' vehicles

Guwahati: A mob comprising dozens of villagers set fire to two vehicles of Assam Rifles in Manipur after the paramilitary force shot dead a civilian. The incident occurred in Kangpokpi district on Friday night. It was not immediately clear what led to the shooting. The police refused to share any details.

Raw meat in Assam temple, five arrested

Guwahati: Five persons were arrested on Saturday for allegedly placing chunks of raw meat inside a temple in Assam's Dhubri district, a police officer said.Tension had gripped Jinkata Part-II village in Golakgunj police station area on Friday after pieces of meat were found in the Kali temple. Locals protested the development.

CBI probe sought into death of scam accused

A few days after former Madhya Pradesh minister Laxikant Sharma, an accused in the Vyapam scam died reportedly of Covid-related complications at a hospital, which is owned by another Vyapam scam accused, demands have grown for a CBI probe into the death. "Sharma was among three who tested Covid-19 positive after attending a wedding. The two others recovered. Sharma died a few hours before he was to be airlifted to Chennai for advanced treatment. Sharma had said if he spoke the truth (about the scam), his life would be in danger. In such circumstances, the ongoing CBI probe in the Vyapam scam should also cover Sharma's death," Congress leader K K Mishra (pic) demanded.

BHOPAL DIARY

ANURAAG SINGH
Our correspondent in Madhya Pradesh
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Maoists burn tendu leaves left in the open for drying

CPI (Maoist) groups active in the jungles of Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district are targeting the tendu leaves plucking process by burning bundles of plucked leaves kept in open fields for drying. Two such incidents have been reported from areas under Malajkhand and Kirnapur police station in the Maoist-infested district. According to Balaghat district police superintendent Abhishek Tiwari, the Tanda and Malajkhand Dalams (two Maoist guerrilla groups) are behind the two incidents. The armed Maoist cadres have also left behind pamphlets attacking the Modi government. Balaghat which neighbours Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra has since many years reported by sporadic activities by CPI (Maoist) guerilla groups, including the Tanda.

Prisoners' paroles extended by 30 days

Paroles already granted to around 4,500 inmates of various jails in Madhya Pradesh will be extended by another 30 days in view of the Covid crisis. According to Home Minister Narottam Mishra, the inmates who are presently out on 60-day paroles will get an extension of 30 days, thus making their total parole period 90 days. The decision has been taken to ensure that those who are out on parole don't come back infected and spread the disease in the jail, particularly since the pandemic's second wave is far from over. Madhya Pradesh on Saturday reported 718 fresh Covid cases.

IIM-Indore installs 4,300 sq mts of solar panels

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Indore has installed solar panels on various buildings in its 193-acre campus. The institute has installed 4,600 square meters of rooftop panels over the old auditorium, the administrative and academic blocks, five student residences and a mess. It has helped decrease the consumption of conventional, non-renewable energy by 11.8% over six months. The institute aims to fully rely on renewable energy in the coming years.

2 people were killed and many hurt when a suicide bomber targeted military personnel in Somali capital Mogadishu

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	33	20	LC	Los Angeles	23	15	LC
Colombo	29	26	LC	Melbourne	16	12	LC
Dhaka	34	28	TDS	Moscow	24	14	TDS
Dubai	44	31	SNY	New York	33	22	SNY
Houston	30	25	TDS	Singapore	33	28	LC
Istanbul	24	16	SNY	Toronto	28	18	SNY
London	22	13	LR	Washington	35	23	SNY

Al Qaeda leader Al-Zawahiri likely in Af-Pak border region: UN report

It says the elusive leader is probably alive but too frail to be featured in propaganda

UNITED NATIONS

A SIGNIFICANT part of the Al-Qaeda leadership resides in the Afghanistan and Pakistan border region, including the group's elusive leader Aiman al-Zawahiri, who is "probably alive but too frail to be featured in propaganda", according to a United Nations report.

The report said that a large number of Al-Qaeda fighters and other foreign extremist elements aligned with the Taliban are located in various parts of Afghanistan. "Member states reported that a significant part of Al-Qaeda leadership remains based in the border region of Afghanistan and Pakistan, where the core is joined by and works closely with Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent," the twelfth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team said.

Aiman al-Zawahiri | FILE PIC

What the report says

Al-Qaeda on the Indian Subcontinent operates under the Taliban umbrella from Kandahar, Helmand and Nimruz Provinces.

The group reportedly consists primarily of Afghan and Pakistani nationals, but also individuals from Bangladesh, India and Myanmar.

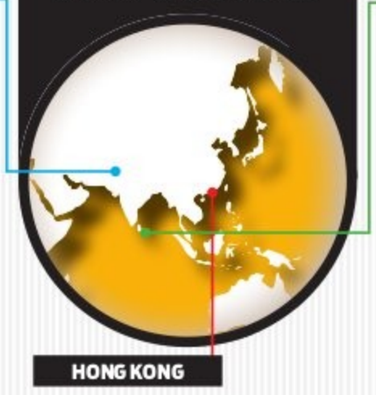
It said the current leader of Al-Qaeda on the Indian Subcontinent is Osama Mahmood who is not listed and succeeded the late Asim Umar.

Al Qaeda leader Aiman Muhammed Rabi al-Zawahiri, is believed to be located somewhere in the border region of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Previous reports of his death due to ill health have not been confirmed. "One member state reports that he is probably alive but too frail to be featured in propaganda," the report said, without identifying the country. It said Al-Qaeda's strategy in the near term is assessed as maintaining its traditional safe haven in Afghanistan for the Al-Qaeda core leadership.

The Monitoring Team noted assessments that have suggested a longer-term Al-Qaeda core strategy of "strategic patience" for a period of time before it would seek to plan attacks against international targets again. "This scenario is untested against stated Taliban commitments to prohibit such activities." Al-Qaeda, including Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent, is reported to number in the range of several dozen to 500 persons.

Al-Qaeda core's membership is of non-Afghan origin, consisting mainly of nationals from North Africa and the Middle East. "Member states assess that formal communication between Al-Qaeda and Taliban officials is currently infrequent, one member state reported that there is regular communication between Taliban and Al-Qaeda on issues related to the peace process." *PTI*

ASIA MATTERS



PAKISTAN

FATF body retains Pak on enhanced follow-up status

Islamabad: The Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering has retained Pakistan on "enhanced follow-up" status for outstanding requirements, and Islamabad will continue to report back to it on the country's progress to strengthen its implementation of anti-money laundering and combating financing terror measures, according to a media report on Saturday. Pakistan was put on the grey list by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in June 2018 and the country has been struggling to come out of it. The Asia Pacific Group (APG) is a regional affiliate of the FATF. The second Follow-Up Report on Mutual Evaluation of Pakistan released by the APG also downgraded the country on one criteria. The report said Pakistan was re-rated to 'compliant' status on five counts and on 15 others to 'largely compliant' and on yet another count to 'partially compliant'. PTI

HONG KONG

Democracy vigil leader released on bail

Hong Kong: One of the organisers of the annual vigil remembering Beijing's deadly Tiananmen Square crackdown was released on bail on Saturday after authorities prevented the sensitive commemoration from taking place on the massacre's 32nd anniversary. Lawyer Chow Hang-tung, one of the few remaining prominent democracy activists not already in jail or in exile, was detained by police on Friday for publicising the banned June 4 vigil in Victoria Park where Hong Kongers traditionally come together every year. AFP

SRI LANKA

Torrential rain kills six, five others missing

Colombo: Torrential rain battered Sri Lanka on Saturday, resulting in flooding, mudslides, and the death of six people, while fives others were reported missing, officials said. This is the third consecutive day of heavy rains, which began to lash six districts in the country's southwest on Thursday night. On Saturday, over 20cm of rain was recorded. Officials said at least 5,000 people have been displaced till now. Houses, farms and roads have been inundated.

News channels showed stills of waterlogged main roads. A family of four died when a heavy mound of earth crashed into their house in Devanagala village in Kegalle district, about 85 kilometers from capital Colombo, Disaster Management officials said. "We have deployed the three armed forces in affected areas," said an official. PTI

EXPRESS READ

Now, Twitter suspended in Nigeria after govt decree

ABUJA: TELECOMS operators in Nigeria said on Saturday they had complied with a government directive to suspend access to Twitter indefinitely, two days after the US social media giant deleted a tweet from President Muhammadu Buhari's account for violating its rules. International human rights groups and diplomats have condemned the move, which followed previous attempts by the government of Africa's most populous country to regulate social media. "The Federal Government has suspended, indefinitely, the operations of the microblogging and social networking service, Twitter, in Nigeria," ministry of information and culture spokesman Segun Adeyemi said in a statement.

Kim calls for political conference to salvage battered economy

SEOUL

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un has presided over a meeting of his ruling party in his first public appearance in about a month, and called for a larger political conference to discuss efforts to salvage a decaying economy.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said on Saturday that Kim expressed appreciation that a lot of works were being sped up thanks to the "ideological enthusiasm and fighting spirit of self-reliance" demonstrated by the party and his people.

But he also said there was a need to correct "deflective matters" and called for a plenary meeting of the Workers' Party's Central Committee to review overall state affairs for the first half of 2021.

The party announced that the plenary meeting was set for early June.

Kim's appearance at Friday's Politburo meeting was the first time he showed himself in public since May 6, when he held a photo session with families of North Korean soldiers.

North Korea's battered economy has deteriorated further amid pandemic border closures, which significantly reduced trade with China, its major ally and economic lifeline.

The Workers' Party last held a plenary meeting of Central Committee members in February, when Kim ripped into state economic agencies for their "passive and self-protecting tendencies" in setting their annual goals.

While Kim said on Friday that North Korea was continuing to face challenges brought by "unfavourable subjective and objective conditions and environment", the KCNA report did not mention any comments he made toward the United States or South Korea.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No: EEPWDGDG PB-1: Different Head : 2021-22/452 Date : 04-06-2021

Short Term Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division,Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of Gadag, Ron and Shirahatti taluka's for 94 works of total amount of Rs - **946.79** Lakhs (Min estimate amount: **0.42** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount: **100.00** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 1, 2 and 3 through e-procurement. Out of 94 Works 69 Works for General Category, 16 Works for S.C. Category and 09 Works for S.T. Category are reserved .(a) Last Date for Clarification upto :**14-06-2021**, (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders :- **17-06-2021** (c) Opening of Technical / Financial Bid Date:- **18-06-2021** (d) Opening of Financial Bid Date:- **19-06-2021** The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in clause 3 of the instructions to tenderers to qualify for award of the contract.
For further information contact the office of The Executive Engineer, PWD Division Gadag (08372-238782) during office hours.GST 12% Will be paid for S.R. 2018-2019 continued to 2020-21

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Division, Gadag.
DIPR/Gadag/MCA/99/2021-22

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Karwar. Po:Habbuwada, Karwar, Uttara Kannada Dist.-581 306.
Phone: 08382-229735 E-mail : eerdwsd.uk@gmail.com
NO.: EE/RDWSD/KWR/PMC/TERAGAON MVS/2021-22/327 DATE:.04.06.2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Karwar invites short term tenders from the eligible bidders for Providing Project Management Consultancy Services for the following work detailed in the table below. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP Act and Standard Tender Document KC-8 shall be followed. The bidders are required to submit through E-procurement portal https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
1) Downloading of RFP from e-Portal starts from: **05.06.2021 10.30 Hrs. to 14.06.2021 17.00 Hrs.** 2) Pre Proposal meeting to be held on: **08.06.2021 Time: 11.30 Hrs.** Venue: O/o.Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division Po:Habbuwada, Karwar-Uttara Kannada Dist. 3) Last Date for receipt of Technical and Financial Proposals: **14.06.2021 Time : 17.30 Hrs.** 4) Date of Opening of Technical Proposal: **15.06.2021 Time : 18:00 Hrs.** 5) Date of Opening of Financial Proposal: **After approval of technical bid**
Name of the work: 1) EE/RDW&SD/KARWAR/TERAGAON/PMC /2020-21/CALL-4, Consultancy Services Estimated cost: **Rs. 138.31 Lakhs,** Earnest Money Deposit:**Rs. 1.50 Lakhs,** Period of Completion (including rainy season): **14 months.**
The RFP can be downloaded from the e-Procurement (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in). Proposals shall be submitted electronically at www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. and EMD and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested firms shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Further information, if any, may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours or through e-procurement.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division, Karwar, Uttara Kannada District**
DIPR/ADK/MCA/185/21-22 dt.05.6.2021

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur Hassan District.

Short term tender Notification No.07/2021-22
Date:04.06.2021

The Executive Engineer, CNNL.,Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur- 573120 Hassan Taluk Hassan Dist., As Per **KW-3**, invited Item rate Short term tender (Two covers) through e-procurement only vide No. **07/2021-22**, dated 04.06.2021 on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from the eligible contractors of PWD Class-I of any State /Central Government /Public Sector organization who are enrolled in Category I-B of CNNL. Details:- **1)** Approx., Cost put to tender Rs. **56.60 Lakhs**, EMD declaration shall be submitted in prescribed format, as uploaded in tender wizard, The contractor can have access e-tender documents from **11.06.2021 to 18.06.2021** through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in on payment (Non Refundable) of transaction fees as fixed by E – portal (2) Opening of Technical bid (Cover-I) **19.06.2021** at 4.30 PM onwards. (if possible) (3)Cover-II (Financial bid) will be opened after approval of Technical bid from the Competent authority. For further information etc., contact in the undersigned office during working hours or through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in(Department)

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur
ಪಾಸಾಸಂ/ಕೊಸಮ/ಹಾಸಕ/ಎಂಂಸಿ/131/2021–22

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India
REGIONAL OFFICE- BENGALURU (EAST)
487, 32E Cross, 19th Main, 4th Block, Sanjay Gandhi Hospital Road, Jayanagar, Bengaluru- 560 041, Ph. No: 080 26645415

DEMAND NOTICE
UNDER SEC.13 (2) SARFAESI Act 2002

Enforcement of security interest action Notice in connection with the credit facilities enjoyed by the following borrowers, classified as Non Performing Asset(NPA)
We have to inform you that you whose names and address mentioned herein below had availed loan from **Union Bank Of India.** Your said loan account has been classified as NPA pursuant to your default in making repayment of dues/interest. Individual notices have been sent by Bank to you demanding the dues payable by you in the account and the details are as under:

Branch Name: Union Bank Of India, Coles Road Branch: No.1, Coles Road, Elegant Desire, Gr Floor, Frazer Town, Bangalore-560005, Phone 080 25805200/5201

1. Name and Address of the Borrower: (1) M/s Arushi Enterprises, (2) Archana Kishore, W/o Jangli Kisan Kishore, No. 39/2, 2nd cross, Sheshadri Road, Marappa Garden, Bangalore-46. **(3) Kishore Kisan Jangli,** S/o Late Kisan, No. 39/2, 2nd cross, Sheshadri Road, Marappa Garden, Bangalore-46.
Name of Facility Amount Due
1A.

Nature	Amount (in Rs)	Running Ledger O/S (Rs.)	D/L Interest	Total as on 31.03.2021
ODGEN 565101000016051	20,00,000.00	21,74,952.49	65,524.00	22,40,476.49

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, Rs. 22,40,476.49 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Forty Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Six and Paise Forty Nine only) together with contractual rate of interest from **01.04.2021**
Classified as NPA as on. 01.03.2021 **Demand Notice Date : 05.04.2021**
1B

Nature	Amount (in Rs)	Running Ledger O/S (Rs.)	D/L Interest	Total as on 31.03.2021
CGSAN 560621000012239	4,00,000	2,37,632.55	7,913.00	2,45,545.55

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, Rs. 2,45,545.55 (Rupees Two Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Five Hundred Forty Five and Paise Fifty Five only) together with contractual rate of interest from **01.04.2021**
Classified as NPA as on. 04.01.2021 **Demand Notice Date : 05.04.2021. (Ref. No. OR/20/2021-22)**

Description of The Secured Assets for 1A & 1B: Residential house standing in the name of Mrs.Archana Kishore consisting of ground floor and first floor with a super built up area of 1129 sft constructed on Site No 24 (earlier old house no list No 159/5B old V P Khata No 119/ 3A, of Ejipura Grama thana Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk) Measuring 1008 sqft situated at 5th cross, Ejipura, Bangalore, Bounded on : East by : 15 ft Road, West by : Property belonging to Venkatappa, North by : Property belonging to Motappa, South by : Property belonging to Subramani.

Branch name: Union Bank Of India Koramangala Branch, 620, Rohiram Plaza, No.83, 17 'D' Main, 6th cross, 6th block, Koramangala, Bangalore 560095, Ph 080 25631952

2. Name and Address of the Borrower: (1) Mr. Kumar A M, No. 1A, 10th Main, 3rd Cross, APR KalyanaMantapa, Varasiddivinayaka Layout, Hongasandra, Bangalore- 560068 **(2) Mrs. Poornima,** No. 1A, 10th Main, 3rd Cross, APR Kalyana Mantapa, Varasiddivinayaka Layout, Hongasandra, Bangalore- 560068
Name of Facility Amount Due

Facility	Limit Sanctioned (Rs.)	Running Ledger O/S (Rs.)	Total as on 31.03.2021
CHOME	4,32,723.69	4,32,723.69	Rs. 4,32,723.69

Amount Outstanding : as on 31.03.2021, Rs.4,32,723.69 (Rupees Four Lakhs Thirty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Three and Sixty Nine Paise only) together with interest from **01.04.2021.**
Classified as NPA as on. 31.03.2021 **Demand Notice Date : 15.04.2021 . (Ref. No. KOR/04/2021-22)**

Description of The Secured Assets : Residential land and building at Site No. 1A, Khata No. 71/4 Hongasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, CMC Bommanahalli measuring East to West 40 ft and North to South 18 ft and bounded on: East by : Road, West by: Remaining portion of the same property, North By : Private property, South by : Site No.1B belonging to B K Thayappa.

In spite of our repeated demands you have not paid any amount towards the amount outstanding in your account/ you have not discharged your liabilities.
We do hereby call upon you in terms of section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 to pay the amount mentioned herein above in your account together with interest at contractual rate as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice , failing which , we shall be constrained to enforce the security created by you in favour of the bank by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act:
Please note that if you fail to remit the dues within 60 days and if the Bank exercises all its rights under this Act and if the dues are not fully satisfied with the sale of the proceeds of the secured assets, we shall be constrained to take appropriate legal action against you in a court of law/Debt Recovery Tribunal for recovery of the balance amount from you.
You are hereby put on notice and your attention is invited to the provision of SARFAESI Act that as per Section 13 (8) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with rule 3(5) of Security Interest (Enforcement)(Amendment) Rules, 2002, you can tender the amount of dues of the secured creditor together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred by the secured creditor at any time before the date of publication of the notice for public auction or by inviting quotations or tender from public or by private treaty for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets. Please also note that if the amount of dues together with the costs, charges and expenses incurred by the secured creditor is not tendered before the date of publication of notice for transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale of the secured assets by public auction or by inviting quotation or tender from public or private treaty as stated above, you shall not be further entitled to redeem the secured asset(s).
You are further requested to note that as per Section 13(13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained/prevented from disposing of or dealing with the above securities except in the usual course of business without the consent of the bank. Please also note that any violation of this section entails serious consequences.

Date : 05.06.2021 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Union Bank of India**

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Construction Organisation, Ernakulam Junction

TENDER NOTICE NO.07/CE/CN/ERS/2021(OT) dt. 31.05.2021
Name of work: Earth work, linking, etc., and other Misc.works in connection with reconstruction of Br. No.1144 between Elimala and Payyannur stations **Tender value:** Rs.514.21 lakhs. **Completion period:** 6 months **Dt. of opening:** 24.06.2021 @ 15.30hrs

Complete details & tender document will be available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

CE/CN/ERS
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer,(Traffc Engineering Cell) Road Infrastructure, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.

No.: EE/TEC/QUO/02/2021-22 Date : 05.06.2021

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Sealed Quotations are invited by the Executive Engineer (Traffic Engineering Cell -Road Infrastructure), BBMP from the experienced Agencies / Companies / Contractors in the relevant works for taking up of the following Item of Work as mentioned below.

Description	Unit	Qty
Supply and fixing of Retro Reflective Landmark Name Signboard of size 1800mm x 1220mm made out of retro reflective sheeting conforming to Type XI standards of ASTM D 4956 — 09 specification & fixed over 2mm thick Aluminum sheet, Back support frame of Stainless Steel supported by 32 NB dia and 1.2 mm thick Stainless Steel pipe all around & 65 NB 2mm thick pipe vertical post (AISI 202 Grade) of height 1.8 mtrs firmly fixed to the ground by means of properly designed foundation with M20 Grade Cement concrete, foundation of size 450mm x 450mm x 600mm in 1:1.5:3 ratio cement concrete. The background shall be white in color and information should be cut in electro cutable film of blue color & BBMP Logo black color film, 10 years warranty as per clause 6.9 of IRC 672012 for Type XI retro reflective sheeting from the sheeting manufacturer & a certified copy of test reports from an independent test laboratory conforming to clause 6.7 of IRC 67-2012 including 3 years outdoor weather exposure report for the retro reflective sheeting offered".	Each	1

1) Sealed Quotation shall be submitted to the Office of the Executive Engineer (Traffic Engineering Cell - Road Infrastructure) **on or before 14.06.2021 by 16:00 hours.** 2) Late Submission of the Quotation will not be entertained. 3) Conditional Quotations are liable to be rejected. 4) Sealed Quotations will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer (Traffic Engineering Cell - Road Infrastructure) **on 14.06.2021 at 16:30 hours.**

Sd/-Executive Engineer, (RI-TEC)

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TRIVANDRUM (WORKS BRANCH)
E-TENDER NOTICE No.WW/TVC/04/2021 DATED 03/0612021

Divisional Railway Manager/Works Branch/Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-14 invites online tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderer (s)/contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for WORKS in Trivandrum Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

S. No.	Description	Approx. value Rs.(In lakh)	Period of completion in months
1	Divisional Engineer/South/TVC - Engaging of semi skilled labour by out sourcing for monsoon night patrolling.	25.82	TWELVE
2	Divisional Engineer/North/TVC - Engaging of semi skilled labour by outsourcing for monsoon night patrolling.	25.80	THREE
3	Trivandrum sub division - Repairs to the FOBs No. 2404 at Km: 219 / 400-500 and 2349A at Km: 191 / 700-800.	9.41	THREE
4.	Trivandrum division - Supply of welding portion 60 Kg R260 grade, equipments and supervision of welding.	82.06	TWELVE
5	Trichur sub division.- Proposed repairs to Minor bridges.	39.49	FOUR
6.	Repairs spalling of concrete, plastering etc in quarters, service buildings, station building etc at North colony and south colony at ERS and station building at Kumbalam.	24.21	THREE
7.	Overhauling and maintenance of LC lifting barriers in Senior Section Engineer/P.way/Varkala section.	34.16	TWELVE
8.	Overhauling and Maintenance of Lifting Barriers at LCs in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Trichur sub-division.	123.87	TWENTY FOUR
9.	Trivandrum Division- Proposed regirdering with new metallised girders for Br.No.176 Up in SRR-ERS section and Br.No.124 in Kottayam - Kayamkulam section - Supply and provision of steel channel sleepers for 8x24.40m spans of Br.No.176Up and 7x18.29m spans of Br.No.124 Up.	189.88	THREE
10.	Senior Section Engineer/Works/Ernakulam Jurisdiction: Up keeping of Railway Colony and major installations for one year.	30.41	TWELVE
11.	Trivandrum - Replacement of damaged pumping line at second entry from GLR to OHT.	21.50	THREE

Tender Closing date and time: Sl No: 1 to 6 : 25/06/2021 at 11.00 hrs 7 to 11: 01/07/2021 at 11 00 hrs

Details of approximate value of tender, EMD & location are given on the e-portal For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager/Works Branch/Trivandrum (for and on behalf of President of India)
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, the undersigned **JHONY STEPHEN** (New Name), previously called **JHONY G,** (Old Name), Telecom Sales Professional, resident of No: 37, 10th Cross, 2nd Block, Akshay Nagar, Bangalore – 560016, Karnataka, India do hereby solemnly declare and states that I have changed my name from **JHONY G** to **JHONY STEPHEN** by swearing to an affidavit in front of Notary public Mr. K.B.Sadha Shivappa on 05/06/2021 for all purposes.

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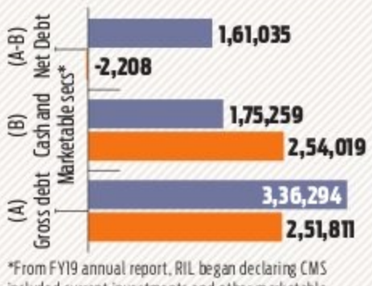
QuoteExpress
ONCE A NEW TECHNOLOGY ROLLS OVER YOU, IF YOU'RE NOT PART OF THE STEAMROLLER, YOU'RE PART OF THE ROAD › STEWART BRAND

$598.16 bn was India's forex reserve as of May 28, according to RBI data. This was an increase of $5.271 billion over the previous week

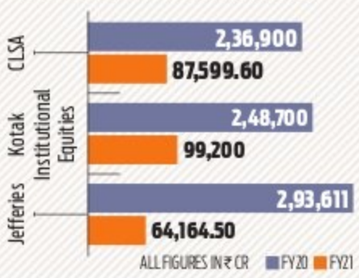
RELIANCE'S NET DEBT MATH

CONSOLIDATED DEBT (AS PER COMPANY)

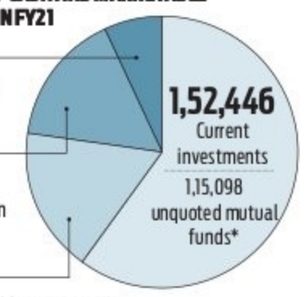


*From FY19 annual report, RIL began declaring CMS included current investments and other marketable securities including investments in unlisted subsidiaries

BROKERAGES' ESTIMATE OF NET DEBT



BREAK-UP OF CASH AND MARKETABLE SECURITIES IN FY21



*Unquoted investments are those made in instruments not traded on recognised markets

**These included investments in Jio Digital Fiber (JDF) and Summit Digital Infra (SDI) or erstwhile Reliance Jio Infratel.

INVESTMENTS IN JDF AND SDI

37,222 Non-Convertable debentures | **77,984** Preference shares

Note: It is unclear which portion of these investments are included under the 'Other Marketable Securities' head.

MATH MISMATCH

	Mismatch	Reason
Capital inflow from FY21 rights issue	39,843	Investors were required to pay only 25% of the rights issue upfront in FY21, with the rest to be paid in two instalments in May and November FY22.
Spectrum payment	37,184	Since new spectrum was not allocated until March 2021, the amount still payable towards these assets has not been accounted for in FY21.

RIL's shaky zero net debt boast

The conglomerate's liabilities are much higher in the books of brokerages tracking the firm

JONATHAN ANANDA @Chennai

MUKESH Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has made much of its shiny new zero-net-debt status over the past year. Having raised a record ₹2.6 lakh crore of capital in a little under 200 days through stake sales and rights issues, the company has not just declared zero net debt in its annual report for financial year 2020-21 (FY21) —it has declared negative net debt.

In other words, it says that as of March 31, 2021, it had more than enough liquid assets to cover all its debt.

But scratch the paint a little and things aren't what they seem. For one thing, estimates of RIL's effective consolidated net debt by various brokerages disagree with the company's. At a hefty ₹64,000 crore-₹99,000 crore, these estimates aren't small either-and a far cry from RIL's declared position.

Reckoning net debt

To figure out why such wide divergences exist between the company's annual report and brokerages' estimates, we need to understand what net debt is. At its core, it is a measure of liquidity and answers a simple question about financial health: If every creditor of a company were to demand immediate repayment of all loans one fine day, would it have enough cash to pay them all?

Net debt is usually calculated by deducting liquid assets such as cash and easily marketable securities from total debt (or gross debt). While cash is the most liquid of assets, marketable securities can be easily converted into cash and are usually traded on recognised financial markets-like listed stocks and gilt government securities.

Disagreements with RIL's declared net debt position are driven by many factors, but the company's "rather debatable" definition of marketable securities is a major one.

Not so marketable

Going by its FY21 annual report, RIL arrives at its consolidated net debt by deducting cash and marketable securities (CMS) from gross debt. Helped by the record capital raised last year, the company has declared steep falls in both gross and net debt— from ₹3.36 lakh crore and ₹1.61 lakh crore, respectively, as of FY20 to ₹2.51 lakh crore and negative ₹2,208 crore as of FY21.

But in the case of net debt, this deleveraging is driven almost entirely by the marketable securities component, which rose from ₹1.75 lakh crore in FY20 to ₹2.54 lakh crore. Cash and equivalents, on the other hand, fell from ₹30,920 crore to ₹17,397 crore.

Footnotes say these marketable securities include ₹1.52 lakh crore current investments made by the company and 'Other Marketable Securities' worth another ₹44,333 crore. But over two-thirds of these current investments (₹1.15 lakh crore) are in unquoted mutual funds. Unquoted securities are referred to as such because they aren't traded on recognised financial markets and, consequently, may not be very easily converted into cash.

Included among the other marketable securities, meanwhile, are RIL's investments in two unlisted associate companies: Jio Digital Fiber (JDFPL) and Summit Digital Infra (SDIPL). The company holds non-convertible debentures (debt instruments) worth ₹37,222 crore and preference shares worth ₹77,984 crore in JDFPL and SDIPL, but it isn't clear which of these are included among other marketable securities.

Inclusions and exclusions

Another item in the CMS component qualifies as a debatable inclusion: the call money receivable from last year's rights issue. Call money is a type of loan that has to be paid back when the lender asks for it. Investors who were allotted shares in the rights issue have to pay RIL ₹53,124 crore in total, but only 25 per cent (₹13,281 crore) was required to be paid upfront in FY21. The rest of the ₹39,843 crore call money, for which RIL has placed calls already, is to be paid in two instalments this year. But RIL has included this in the CMS component for FY21.

"This," CLSA notes, "helped it turn net cash". It isn't all about inclusions, though, and one major exclusion on the debt side also contributes to the divergence in net debt numbers. RIL has to pay the government around ₹37,000 crore for new spectrum purchases, but CLSA says that since this spectrum was not allocated till March 2021, "unpaid spectrum has not yet been accounted for". "Adjusted for the rights issue money, unpaid spectrum.., along with our estimate of capex creditors, consolidated net liabilities stood at $12 billion (around ₹87,500 crore)," it added.

Such estimates vary across brokerages. Jefferies pegs RIL's adjusted net debt at the end of FY21 at ₹64,164 crore. Kotak Institutional Securities puts effective net debt at ₹59,400 crore, but only if the money receivable from the rights issue is taken into account. Excluding that, this figure rises to ₹99,200 crore. But Kotak analysts also note that the company has utilised fresh capital and cash profits to reduce effective net debt (including capex creditors) by ₹1.89 lakh crore; cut down working capital by ₹50,700 crore; pare other liabilities by ₹20,100 crore; and fund ₹79,700 crore of capital expenditure. All said, RIL has managed massive reductions in debt.

But has it really become a zero net debt firm? Not really. Or, at the least, not yet.

NEWSCOPE

Fuel prices are killing both CONSUMER & CONSUMPTION

GURBIR SINGH

IT was a milestone for fuel price watchers. A couple of days ago petrol crossed ₹100 a litre in Mumbai, and in several cities in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. After a two-day hiatus, on Friday prices were hiked again, and it looks like even diesel in Mumbai (₹92.99/litre) and Chennai (₹90.38/litre) is now inching towards the ₹100-per-litre mark.

From the beginning of the first wave of the pandemic in mid-March last year, petrol prices have gone up approximately 25 per cent.

On 18 February, this year, 114 countries in the world sold petrol cheaper than in India. The cheapest were Venezuela and Iran, both oil producers, that sold at ₹1.45 and ₹4.50 per litre, respectively. Pakistan's pump rate was half of India's at ₹51.14 while even the USA rate was at ₹54.65 per litre. The average world price of gasoline is ₹78.71, which is at least 20 per cent cheaper than India's average.

Which way, crude prices?

The cost of crude oil is obviously the biggest input cost for retail fuel sold at pumps. From around $52 a barrel for Brent crude at the beginning of calendar 2021, crude has moved to a two-year high in June 2021 to beyond $71 a barrel.

The freeze on international economic activity when the pandemic first broke out last year, had reduced demand to a trickle, and had forced down crude prices to below $20 a barrel for the first 5 months of 2020. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) hit back once economic activity began cranking up again. Imposing a voluntary cut of around 7 million barrels a day, the group led by Saudi Arabia continued the production cuts into 2021. As demand rose and supply was held down, crude prices have continued to climb.

This upward trend will continue as more people get vaccinated against Covid-19, and increased economic activity spurs demand for energy. The US' Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Annual Energy Outlook says by 2030, world demand will drive up Brent prices to $89/b. By 2040, prices are projected to be $132/b. By then, the cheap oil sources will have been exhausted, making it more expensive to extract oil. By 2050, oil prices will be $185/b.

The one way to reverse the situation is to stop the rapacious taxation of fuel. The general thumb rule is: fuel prices are higher in the richer countries because of higher taxes, while the poorer and oil producing countries, because it is a necessity of daily life, prefer to keep taxes and prices down. Unfortunately India, despite its overwhelming number of poor consumers, uses this commodity to beef up government revenue at the cost of the people.

Overtaxing oil

Value-added tax (VAT) and other central and state taxes account for a humongous 67 per cent of the pump price of petrol and 61% of the retail price for diesel. Surely taxes can be rationalized to make life more equitable for the poor consumer?

India imports over 80 per cent of its oil needs, and international prices change on a daily basis. The oil marketing companies (OMCs) therefore peg their retail prices by benchmarking them to a 15-day rolling average of international prices. However, here too opportunism kicks in to cream the consumer.

India, when oil prices hit rock bottom in March last year, bought 16.71 million barrels of crude at $19 a barrel in the April-May 2020 period to fill up its strategic reserves and saved ₹5,069 crore in the bargain. Every dollar per barrel drop in crude prices reduced India's oil import bill by ₹10,700 crore on an annualized basis, but you and I never saw these benefits.

Nearly three years ago, when crude was at $75 a barrel, pump prices for petrol were averaging ₹75 a litre. Today Brent crude is around $72/b, and petrol is retailing at our pumps for over ₹100/litre. By sleight of hand, the government had hiked excise duty whenever international prices fell; but did not roll them back when crude prices rose. The crude (pun intended!) 'theft' was justified by citing the need for revenue to tackle the economic crisis the pandemic had caused. During 2020, the central government hiked excise on petrol by ₹13 per litre and on diesel by ₹16 per litre.

As a result, excise duty collection during April-November 2020 shot up 48 per cent to ₹1,96,342 crore from ₹1,32,899 crore in the same period in 2019.

Besides exploiting the consumer, these taxes also are a drag on consumption and economic recovery. The cascading effect of high diesel prices on transportation and, therefore on the cost of most daily commodities is huge, and is a major contributor to inflation. The slump in vehicle sales, for no small part due to constantly rising fuel prices, is again a glaring symbol of how the government is killing consumption.

Both the Union and state governments have to stop thinking of fuel products as the proverbial Golden Goose, and roll back some of these onerous taxes.

Business & Beyond

Raman Chadha takes over as CEO of GAIL Gas

Raman Chadha has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of GAIL Gas Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of GAIL (India), which is engaged in the city gas distribution business. Chadha has vast experience encompassing more than 36 years in the oil & gas and petrochemical sectors. He has taken over the charge from M.V. Ravi Someswarudu. Earlier, he was serving as GAIL executive director.

GRSE dedicates vaccination centre

Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has undertaken an initiative to vaccinate all employees by setting up a dedicated Covid vaccination centre at its main unit in Kolkata. The vaccination drive is being organised with support from the State Urban Development Agency (SUDA) and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal. The centre was inaugurated by Rear Admiral V.K. Saxena, IN (Retd.), CMD GRSE.

JSW- BPSL unveils Covid Care centre in Odisha

JSW-BPSL has opened a new 125-bedded Covid Care Centre at Rengali in Sambalpur, Odisha. It was inaugurated by chief District Medical Officer, Sambalpur on May 31, 2021. Currently, the centre has a capacity of 50 beds, fully oxygenated, with a dedicated team of doctors and paramedics with medicines, oxygen concentrators to provide 24 X 7 service to local people. However, the Covid Care Centre will be further extended with up to 125 beds depending upon the needs of the local people, the company said in a statement.

PPL donates sanitisers, masks to BMC workers

Paradeep Phosphates Limited (PPL) has donated sanitisers and N95 masks worth `1 lakh to the employees of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), who are engaged in Covid-19 management. The entire responsibility of tracing, treatment and vaccination is on this institution and safety of these workers is of paramount importance. Keeping this view in mind, Sudhi Ranjan Mishra, head, corporate affairs handed over the items to Sanjay Kumar Singh, IAS, Commissioner, BMC.

Will the proposed 15% minimum tax rate take away India's competitive edge?

DIPAK MONDAL @New Delhi

EVEN as the finance ministers of Group Seven (G7) countries come out in support of the US proposal for a 15 per cent global minimum corporate tax rate, will it make any difference to developing countries like India, which have used tax as a key tool to attract investment? Experts say, if a consensus is reached on 15 per cent minimum corporate tax rate, India will not be impacted by it for now, but it may take away its room for manoeuver in future.

India currently has the lowest corporate tax rate of 15 per cent for new manufacturing companies. However, after including surcharge (10 per cent) and Cess (4 per cent), the effective tax rate comes to 17.16 per cent. For other corporates, the tax rate is 22 per cent.

Mukesh Butani, managing partner, BMR Legal, does not think a minimum rate of 15 per cent would impact India as of now. "Even if one looks at our lowest corporate tax rate for new manufacturing, India is fine," says Butani.

Sudhir Kapadia, national tax leader, EY India, feels that the announcement of a minimum corporate tax rate of 15 per cent is path-breaking, especially for large and developing countries like India who would always find it very difficult to keep corporate tax rates artificially lower in a bid to increase much-needed foreign direct investments in the country.

What should worry Indian policymakers is the fact that the US treasury department has hinted at pushing the 15 per cent floor rate higher. The secretary of US treasury had earlier proposed a 21 per cent minimum tax rate. In that case, the impact will have to be assessed since the US has a complex way of computing effective tax rate.

EXPRESS READ

Covid blow: Indigo net loss widens to ₹1,147 cr

New Delhi: Domestic budget carrier Interglobe Aviation Limited on Saturday posted a consolidated year-on-year net loss of `1,147 crore in the quarter ended March 31, 2021. The company had posted a loss of `870.8 crore a year-ago. Revenues fell 25 per cent to `6,222 crore in the March quarter as against `8,299 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, IndiGo said in a regulatory filing. "This has been a very difficult year with our revenues slumping hard due to Covid, showing some signs of recovery between December and February and then slumping again with the second wave," said CEO Ronojoy Dutta.

Paytm narrows losses by 42% to ₹1,701 cr in FY21

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Bengaluru

ONE97 Communications Ltd., the parent company of Paytm, reported another year of loss in FY21 even though the quantum was lower than in the previous year. The IPO-bound company has managed to trim its losses by 42 per cent to ₹1,701 crore as compared with ₹2,942 crore in 2019-2020, according to the company's annual report.

However, the consolidated revenues shrank by 14 per cent year-on-year to ₹2,802 crore from ₹3,280 crore on account of the impact of Covid-19 on businesses during the first few quarters of FY21. The company had cut its losses by as much as 30 per cent in FY20. In terms of expenses, there was a huge reduction in marketing, promotion spends by 63 per cent to ₹532 crore for FY21 compared to ₹1,397 crore a year ago. Payment processing charges for the financial year fell 15 per cent to ₹1,916 crore. Like the other unicorns, Paytm has been aggressively reducing its cash burn as it seeks investors' interest on the domestic stock exchanges.

Paytm had earlier said in a statement that despite a significant disruption in the business of its merchant partners, especially in the first half of the year, amid the ongoing pandemic, it has had a minimal impact on revenues due to a strong recovery in the second half.

Sources privy to the development said that Paytm will file its priliminary registration document next month and the much touted $3 billion IPO will be announced towards the end of the year. Paytm is also seeking to dilute the stake of its Chinese investors: Alibaba and Ant Financial which collectively holds 37 per cent stake in One 97 Communications with SoftBank, Elevation Capital (formerly known as SAIF partners) and Paytm CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma as major stakeholders.

Paytm is also likely to raise a pre-IPO fund, sources said. However, new-age companies will test the risk appetite of retail investors s who have conventionally placed bets in family-owned businesses.

DNA test issue puts NADA in uneasy corner

PERHAPS, this could be one of the most embarrassing moments in the history of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA). In a first in the country, an amateur motorbike rider was exonerated of doping charges after integrity of the urine samples was established through DNA testing. Vijay Singh, as reported in these columns, had always maintained that the urine sample that tested positive for stanazolol (a steroid) was not his.

On Thursday, he was cleared of charges after a London laboratory said the urine sample was somebody else's. "DNA profiles from stored urines A and B have provided a profile from a male individual that cannot have originated from Vijay Singh... Mr Vijay Singh cannot have contributed his DNA to the previously collected sample," concluded the report from the Kings Forensics (King's College, London).

There are a few things that seem amiss. The samples were collected during a motorsport event in November 2018. He had been serving a ban since Jan 2019. It was the appeals panel, not the disciplinary panel, that agreed for the DNA test subject

to a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) clearance last year. Even after paying the amount of £752 by November 2020, sports lawyer Vidushpat Singhania had to approach Delhi High court to direct NADA to collect the sample and send it to the London lab. It took over two years and four months to clear his name. He was serving a four-year ban.

What is more troublesome is that there was an error during the collection of the sample. Who messed it up? It could be anyone. That it occurred at the collection centre, as claimed by the rider, seems baffling. The Dope Control Officer is supposed to facilitate foolproof collection of sample. Such instances would only tarnish the reputation of the whole collection and testing process.

This also leads to a fundamental question. Whose sample was it? And if indeed, that person was doping, as the sample suggested, then he must be competing everywhere. What looks perilous is that this could set a precedent. More athletes start challenging NADA's collection method.

Website not updated

Of late, the NADA seems quiet. There is no news of the hearing of an Olympic-bound athlete who reportedly tested positive during an Indian Grand Prix athletics in February. Also sample this. NADA's website still shows Navin Agarwal as the Director General – two months after he moved to his parent organisation Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Can England finally go all the way?

One genuine contender, a team coming after a genuine slump and a few darkhorses. On day two of our Euro countdown, here is a brief look at Groups C and D.

GROUP C

AUSTRIA
The hipsters' choice at the last Euros (they flattered to deceive with one point in three). Since then, they have developed as a squad, with a couple of very handy playmakers. Will be surprising if they don't at least advance to the knockouts.

KEY PLAYER: DAVID ALABA
The new Real Madrid man oozes confidence on the ball and will be key to Das Team's hopes.

UKRAINE
As a side they are dependable in qualifiers but stink the place out during tournaments. In their last two Euros, they have won once in six games. Much depends on their game against North Macedonia.

KEY PLAYER: RUSTAN MALINOVSKIY
The Atalanta midfielder is adept at set pieces and can shoot with deadly accuracy from outside the box.

NETHERLANDS
After missing out on the last few competitions, Oranje are primed to make up for lost time. Under new management and a fresh squad, they could be one of the surprise packages, even without the injured Virgil van Dijk.

KEY PLAYER: MEMPHIS DEPAY
Pace, dribbling, finishing skills... when the winger turns it on, he has all the arsenal in his locker.

NORTH MACEDONIA
Debutants at this level, their stated goal is to progress beyond the group stages. Even if that's a tall claim, they did get the better of Germany in the World Cup qualifiers in April.

KEY PLAYER: GORAN PANDEV
A veteran forward, the former Inter player is still deceptively quick and can finish, even from acute angles.

GROUP D

SCOTLAND
Twenty-three years of hurt ended when they advanced at Serbia's expense last year. Getting out of this group will be their version of winning the Euros.

KEY PLAYER: ANDY ROBERTSON: In a squad filled with honest triers, there are 3-4 elite players. That list is headed by the Liverpool defender whose ability down the left is well documented.

CROATIA
Players who constituted the golden generation – three years on from making the WC final – are all in the twilight of their careers. Recent history suggests they will struggle because the younger players aren't of a sufficient quality, either to start or to effect games off the bench.

KEY PLAYER: LUKA MODRIC: He is still world class. However, the fear is he may not be able to keep inspiring his side.

ENGLAND
Even taking perennial hype into consideration, this could be their tournament. The one issue could be their backline, especially if Harry Maguire doesn't recover from injury.

KEY PLAYER: HARRY KANE:
Probably one of the best forwards in the game. What makes him more lethal is his ability to drop back and play that defence splitting pass.

CZECH REPUBLIC
Some promising players have developed into good club players after greats like Petr Cech and Tomas Rosicky retired. The question is whether they can string an upset in this group to go past the group stages? A 0-4 loss to Italy in a friendly suggests otherwise.

KEY PLAYER: PATRIK SCHICK: Having scored 10 goals in 24 matches for the national team, this could be his breakthrough tournament.

SAI conducts exams for Dip in Sports Coaching

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

EVEN as the union government cancelled Class XII board exams and several state governments followed suit, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) successfully organised online examinations for Diploma in Sports Coaching. Around 750 students appeared for the exams conducted for seven subjects from May 27 to June 3. The SAI also plans to organise the second semester exams in a few days and has started preparations for the same.

As many as 24 sports are distributed across four academic centres of SAI with NIS Patiala offering the one-year diploma course in 11 disciplines. The other academic centres are in Bengaluru, Kolkata and Thiruvananthapuram.

"It was a huge task but we completed it successfully," Colonel Raj Singh Bishnoi, senior executive director of NIS Patiala, said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Djokovic, Nadal breeze into last 16

AFP @Paris

NOVAK Djokovic moved effortlessly into the French Open fourth round for the 12th successive year on Saturday, setting up an intriguing duel against Italian teenager Lorenzo Musetti as Elina Svitolina crashed out, leaving just three of the women's top 10 seeds in the tournament.

World No 1 Djokovic brushed aside 93rd-ranked Ricardas Berankis of Lithuania 6-1, 6-4, 6-1. Defending champion Rafael Nadal reached the fourth round for the 16th time with his third win of 2021 over Britain's Cameron Norrie. Nadal won 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 and goes on to face Italian teenager Jannik Sinner for a place in the last eight.

SELECT RESULTS (RD 3)

- **MEN:** N Djokovic (SRB x1) bt R Berankis (LTU) 6-1, 6-4, 6-1; L Musetti (ITA) bt M Cecchinato (ITA) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3; J Sinner (ITA x18) bt M Ymer (SWE) 6-1, 7-5, 6-3; D Schwartzman (ARG x10) bt P Kohlschreiber (GER) 6-4, 6-2, 6-1; R Nadal (ESP x3) bt C Norrie (GBR) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3, 6-2; **Friday:** S Tsitsipas (GRE x5) bt J Isner (USA x31) 5-7, 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-1.
- **WOMEN:** S Stephens (USA) bt K Muchova (CZE x18) 6-3, 7-5; B Krejcikova (CZE) bt E Svitolina (UKR x5) 6-3, 6-2; S Kenin (USA x4) bt J Pegula (USA x28) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; M Kostyuk (UKR) bt V Gracheva (RUS) 6-1, 6-2; I Swiatek (POL x8) bt A Kontaveit (EST x30) 7-6 (4), 6-0.

Czech-mate

Barbora Krejcikova of the Czech Republic reached the last 16 for the second successive year with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over three-time quarter-finalist Svitolina. Krejcikova goes on to face Sloane Stephens.

Women's recurve team off to Paris for Oly qualifiers

AYANTAN CHOWDHURY @New Delhi

INDIA'S women recurve archers were due to depart for Paris on Saturday ahead of a ten-day quarantine upon arrival ahead of the Final Olympic Qualification Event. The women's team of Deepika Kumari, Ankita Bhakat, Komalika Bari and Madhu Vedwan (reserve) will be accompanied by two coaches and support staff. AAI have also managed to get a training club for the archers where they will be able to practice during the quarantine period.

"We were in constant contact with the organisers and apprised them of the difficulty our archers would be facing if they were to spend the entire isolation period cooped up inside their hotel rooms. Thankfully, they agreed to our requests and now our archers will get a training venue during the day," a senior official said.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

EXPRESS READ

Burns' gritty century helps Eng post 275

LONDON: Opener Rory Burns (132) scored a fighting century and added 52 runs for the last wicket with James Anderson (8 not out) as England were bowled out for 275 runs on Day 4 of their first Test against New Zealand on Saturday. The visitors had scored 378 runs in their first innings.

Anirudh tests positive for Covid-19 in Doha

NEW DELHI: Midfielder Anirudh Thapa has tested positive for Covid-19 and is under quarantine in a separate room in the team hotel in Doha. He tested positive on Wednesday, a day before India lost 0-1 to Asian champions Qatar in their joint World Cup and Asian Cup qualifiers in Doha.

KAA to pick athletics team without trials

BENGALURU: The Covid-19 pandemic situation has forced the Karnataka Athletics Association (KAA) to pick the state team without any selection trials for the National Inter-State Senior Athletics Championship, scheduled to be held in Patiala from June 25 to 29. ENS

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521
No. 903/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/EE(O)/AEE-4/2021-22/994-1006 Date: 04-06-2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement mode only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited, invites Tenders from this office for the following works:

1) Painting of all sub-station equipments and supporting structures at 110kV S/S Hanagal and 110kV S/S Hirekerur in TL&SS Division Haveri. 2) Providing the Service of 01 No. of Driver to Hot Line Division, KPTCL, Hubballi.

The detailed notification regarding the works called through the **'e-Procurement'** mode can be obtained by logging onto e-Procurement's website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **07.06.2021**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele)
Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Vidhyuth Nagar, Hubballi-580024, Phone / Fax: 0836-2203094

Karnataka Food & Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd.
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.16/I, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052. Ph.: 080-22200660
No.: KFCSC/IAW/A.I.A/18/2021-22/52 Date: 04.06.2021

TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CENTRALIZED INTERNAL AUDITORS

The Karnataka Food & Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (KFCSC), Bengaluru, invites tender through e-Procurement portal from practicing Chartered Accountants & CA firms (as per KTPP Act 1999) for appointment of Centralized Internal Auditors for the period **01.07.2021 to 31.03.2022.** Last date for submission of bids: **11.06.2021, 17.00 hrs.** Date/time of opening of Technical Bid: **14.06.2021, 11.00 hrs.** and Financial Bid: **16.06.2021, 15.00 hrs.** For further information kindly see **https://kfcsc.karnataka.gov.in** and visit e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** The Managing Director reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Managing Director

Government of India
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Post Bag no. 1. Yelwal, Mysuru 571 130
Telephone: 0821 – 2406692 Fax: 0821 - 2403064

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tenders are hereby invited on behalf of the President of India by the Chief Engineer, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mysuru – 571 130, Karnataka State, from the reputed contractors for the following work.

Tender Reference No.	**BARC (M)/PO&M/CF/VKM/TN/WO/2021/09**
Name of work	Roofing in MS sheet and fabrication of aluminum partition wall with MS reinforcement including supply of material.
Estimated Cost	₹ **3,51 ,000/-**
Period of Completion	**3 Months**
Earnest Money Deposit	NIL, "Bid Security declaration" shall be submitted prior to due date of tender opening.
Security Deposit	2.5% of tendered value
Performance Guarantee	3.0% of tendered value
Cost of Tender Document	₹ **500/-** (Rupees Five hundred only) (Non-Refundable)
Issue of tender document on written request	From **07-06-2021 to 11-06-2021** from **11 am to 4 pm.**
Last date of receipt of sealed tender documents	Up to **15.00Hrs** on **14-06-2021**
Tender Opening date & time	**On 14-06-2021** at **15.05Hrs**
Contact no.	**0821-2406692**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, BARC
For & on behalf of the President of India

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919
KALINADI HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT
No: KPCL/2020- 21/DA/WORK_INDENT10720/CALL-4. Date: 28.05.2021

Abstract Bid Notification (Through e-procurement portal)

Sealed bids are invited for the work from reputed bidders with proven track record of successful completion of similar nature of works. through Gok e-portal **Name of work: Supply, Erection and commissioning of 20HP submersible pump and Modification of existing pipe line including erection of check valves for auto mode operation at Kadra Power House. Amount Put to the Tender:** Rs.1,95,873/-. **Period of completion:** Three months from date of handing over of site. **Last date & time for On-Line Submission of tenders:** 07.06.2021 16:30 PM. **Date & time of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I):** 09.06.2021 08:30 AM. **Date & time of opening of Financial Bid (Cover-II):** 10.06.2021 08:30 AM. The details of NIT & Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK e-Procurement website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**. Further details can be had from **Executive Engineer (O&M) Kadra, KPCL, Kadra - 581396, Uttar Kannada (Dist), Karnataka Ph No : 08382 – 256381, Mob: 9448793583, E-mail: eekadra1kpcl@karnataka.gov.in/seekadrakpcl@yahoo.in.**

TUMKUR CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS SOCIETIES UNION LTD.,
N.H.206, B.H.ROAD, MALLASANDRA, TUMKUR-572107
Phone: 0816-2206297/142/490/46
Email: tmupur99@gmail.com Fax: 0816-2206760

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS
(Tender Notification only through E-procurement)

Tumkur Co-operative Milk Producers Societies Union Ltd., Tumkur invites E-Procurement tenders two cover system (Technical & Financial bid) from eligible tenderers for the supply of the material listed below:

PART - A

Sl. No.	E-Procurement Tender No. & Date	Materials Details	E.M.D Amount Rs.
1	KMF/TCMU/PUR/ 2021-22/IND9131 Dt: 31-05-2021	Supply Of Corrugated Box to pack 1000 ML Brik pack - 1,60,000 Nos.	57,600-00
2	KMF/TCMU/PUR/ 2021-22/IND9132 Dt: 31-05-2021	Supply of Canteen Grocery Items For 12 Months As Per Our Requirement, Terms And Technical Specification.	1,24,000-00

1. Tender Schedule Downloading Date: From 31-05-2021 to 08-06-2021/ 4.00 P.M.
2. Last Date for Submission Of Tender: 08-06-2021/ 4.00 P.M.
3. Time & Date of Opening of Technical Tender Bid (Cover-1): 09-06-2021/ 4.30 P.M.
4. Web Site Address For E-tender: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

INVITATION FOR TENDERS
(Tender Notification only through E-procurement)

Tumkur Co-operative Milk Producers Societies Union Ltd., Tumkur invites E-Procurement tenders two cover system (Technical & Financial bid) from eligible tenderers for the supply of the material listed below:

PART – B

1	KMF/TCMU/PUR/ 2021-22/ IND9151 Dt: 04-06-2021	Supply Of Milk Adulteration Test Kit – 1,300 Nos.	39,000-00
2	KMF/TCMU/PUR/ 2021-22/ IND9152 Dt: 04-06-2021	Supply Of Mysore Pak Pouches, Mysore Pak Duplex Board & Peda Cartoon Box Total – 10,85,000 Nos.	29,250-00
3	KMF/TCMU/PUR/ 2021-22/ IND9153 Dt: 04-06-2021	Supply and Installation of Desktop Computer – 10 Nos, Monitors – 05 Nos, Laptop – 01No & Different types of Printers – 09 Nos.	27,500-00
4	KMF/TCMU/ 2021-22/ STC Dt: 04-06-2021	Scientifically Cleaning Of Over Head Tank And Sump Tank Of Tumkur Milk Union Identified BMC Centers On Bi-Annual Rate Contract Basis	19,500-00

1. Tender Schedule Downloading Date: From 07-06-2021 to 28-06-2021/ 2.00 P.M.
2. Last Date for Submission Of Tender: 28-06-2021/ 2.00 P.M.
3. Time & Date of Opening of Technical Tender Bid (Cover-1): 29-06-2021/ 2.30 P.M.
4. Web Site Address For E-tender: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in

For Tumkur Milk Union Ltd.,
Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

Nizams Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad (NIMS)
Invites Bids on e-procurement Platform (www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in) for supply of " VENTILATORS"

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Rc No: PIngII/07/2021/Ventilators to various depts. Dt-4-6-2021

Bids are invited from the Manufacturers or Authorized dealers having wide range of reputation for the supply of Ventilators through e-Procurement Portal (www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in)

Bidders are requested to visit the above website for complete tender specifications including pre-qualification criteria and Due Date for submission and opening of tender. Information about the tender is also available on NIMS website: www.nims.edu.in

R.O. No. : 210-DP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2021-22 Date: 05-06-2021 Sd/- DIRECTOR

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Pulikeshnagara Division, Robertson Road, Fraser Town, Bengaluru.
No.: EE/PN/TEND/04/2021-22 Date: 04.06.2021

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagara Division, BBMP, invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the work detailed the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)
For General Category Works		
1.	Storm Water Drain works in Ward No. 48, Muneshwaranagar.	30.00
2.	Engaging Silt And Tractor with Labours for Maintenance of Ward in Ward No. 47, D.J. Halli. (3rd Call).	15.00
3.	Providing Water Supply pipeline works at Roshannagar in Ward No. 47, D.J. Halli.	20.00
4.	Providing Borewell & Water Pipelines in Sulthanpalya & surrounding area, Ward No. 32, Pulikeshinagar Constituency.	40.00
5.	Construction of Individual House to SC/ST individual Houses in Ward No. 60, Sagayapuram.	40.00
6.	Repair Works to well, pipeline & other works to Wahab Garden in Ward No. 61, S.K. Garden.	49.00
7.	Improvements to Drain & CC Roads at G.R. Street & D.J. Halli Main Road (Side drains) & surrounding area in Ward No. 61, S.K.Garden.	50.00
For SC Category		
1.	Construction & improvements to Drain & CC Roads at Bangaragiri Layout Cross Road & surrounding areas in Ward No. 61, S.K. Garden.	50.00
2.	Improvements of Secondary drain connected to Storm Water Drain in Sharadanagar & surrounding areas in Ward No. 48, Muneshwaranagar	10.00
For ST Category		
1.	Asphalting of Assayya Road, Cross near Sindhi Colony & Cross in ward No. 78 (2nd Call).	20.00
2.	Improvements to Drain & Roads at Modi Road (side drains) & surrounding areas in ward No. 61, S.K. Garden.	50.00

EMD Declaration : as per FD order No. FD 675 exp-12/ 2020. Dtd. 22.12.2020. **1)** tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 11.06.2021 onwards. 2)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **19.06.2021 upto 16.00 hrs. 3)** Date of opening of tenders: **21.06.2021 at 11.00 hrs.** If possible. Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website : **https:/eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-procurement helpdesk at : 080-22485857/ 22485927.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Pulikeshinagara Division.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

TNPL invites Tender for the following

Tender No	Material Description	Due Date
212213 001036	Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported) with 5000 GAR	21.06.2021

* Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only.

Terms & conditions, Quantity, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in the tender Document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in**

DIPR/1669/Tender/2021 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief Project Officer,
Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project
PWD Annexe Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru – 560 001. 080-22224106
E-mail : cepiushdp@gmail.com Website : www.shdpkar.in
No: 02/ 2021-22 Dated: 05-06-2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR PREPARATION OF DETAILED PROJECT REPORTS (DPR'S) FOR THE PROPOSED ROAD WORKS TO BE TAKENUP UNDER SHDP- PHASE-4 STAGE II (Call-2 & Call-3)

The Chief Engineer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru on behalf of Governor of Karnataka is inviting tenders for the Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR's) for the Improvements of Roads under SHDP Phase-IV Stage-II in packages as below. Interested Consultants may submit tenders through E-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka **(http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sl. No.	Call No.	Divisions
1	Call-2	**1) Bidar & Kalaburgi, 2) Sedam & Yadgir, 3) Bellary & Huvina Hadagali, 4) Dharwad & Gadag, 5) Haveri, 6) Vijayapura & Bagalkot, 7) Chitradurga, 8) Davanagere, 9) Bangalore & Ramanagara, 10) Tumkur, 11) Chikkaballapur & Kolar and 12) Mysuru & Chamarajanagar PWD Divisions – 12 Packages**
2	Call-3	**1) Karwar & Sirsi Division 2) Udupi & Kodagu Divison – 2 Packages**

Tender Process Details:
1) Tender Documents can be downloaded in E-Proc portal from **07-06-2021**. **2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **11-06-2021** at **11.30** Hours, Virtual meeting will be conducted. (ZOOM Meeting, ID: 892 6211 4417 & Password: 12345678). **3)** Last date & time for Receipt of Tenders: **17-06-2021** Upto **16.30** Hours. **4)** Date & time for opening of Technical bid : **19-06-2021** at **11.30** Hours. **5)** Date & Time of opening of Financial Proposal of the Technically Qualified Bidders: **25-06-2021** at **11.30** Hours. **6)** Corrigendums, Addendums and Modifications in Notification if any will be published in E-Procurement Portal only.
Terms of Reference may be downloaded in E-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) from **07-06-2021**
Registered Consultancy Firms in E-Procurement are eligible to Participate in tender. One Consultancy firm is eligible to obtain Tender for Two Packages Only.
Any further information can be obtained from Office of the Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru during office hours on all working days and also through www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. E-Procurement Portal Helpdesk Telephone Nos. are 080-46010000 & 080-68948777.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
PIU-SHDP, Bengaluru

DIPR/DDU/RO. No. 482/2021-22

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QuoteExpress DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK; DO WHAT IT DOES. KEEP GOING — SAM LEVENSON

Covid-19 derailing fight against HIV, say experts

HEALTH

NEW YORK: Some researchers believe COVID-19 has derailed the fight against HIV, siphoning away health workers and other resources and setting back a US campaign to decimate the AIDS epidemic by 2030. This suggests that AIDS-prevention efforts elsewhere may also have slowed down.

Saturday marks the 40th anniversary of the first report that brought AIDS to the attention of the public. For a time, the battle against HIV — the virus that causes AIDS — was going well. But experts believe the US could soon see its first increase in infections in years. Internationally, recent strides could also be undone because of COVID-19's interruption of HIV testing and care.

Samuel Jenness, an Emory University researcher, used Atlanta-area data and statistical modeling to project major increases in some sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.

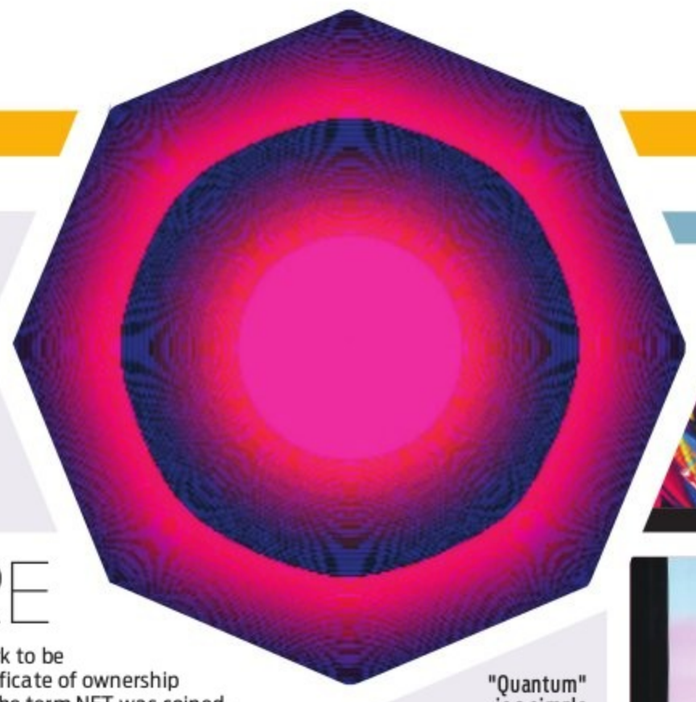
At the least, Covid-19 halted recent declines in new HIV infections, Jenness said. "At the worst, it potentially brought us an increase of cases for at least the next couple of years," he added.

Limited data collected by the CDC suggests there were large drop-offs in HIV testing and other services. The CDC looked at data from a lab that handles about a quarter of the nation's HIV tests, comparing the numbers from March 13 through September 30 last year with the same period the year before. The agency found there were 670,000 fewer HIV screening tests, and about 4,900 fewer HIV diagnoses than normal. There also was a 21% national decline in prescriptions for pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP. a kind of medicine people at risk for HIV take to prevent them from getting the virus through sex or injection drug use.

EXFILE • TECHNOLOGY

World's first-ever NFT goes on sale

The first non-fungible token (NFT) ever created, which is the genesis of a craze that is now sweeping the art market, has gone on sale at Sotheby's



"Quantum" is a simple octagon-shaped geometric animation by artist Kevin McCoy

2014

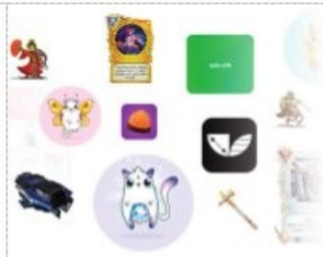
"Quantum" became the first work to be associated with a NFT-type certificate of ownership in May 2014, three years before the term NFT was coined

₹1 CRORE

"Quantum" became the first work to be associated with a NFT-type certificate of ownership in May 2014, three years before the term NFT was coined. Sotheby's has no pre-sale estimate for "Quantum", which had already reached about `1 crore on Friday, a day after it went on sale. The sale ends on June 10

In 10 years looking back, if in fact these are to grow, this piece can represent and symbolise the start of something that is quite revolutionary and very impactful

Max Moore, vice president of contemporary art at Sotheby's in New York



NFT EXPLAINER

An NFT is a digital object such as a drawing, animation, piece of music, photo, or video with a certificate of authenticity created by blockchain technology. It cannot be forged or otherwise manipulated

NFT exchanges happen in cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin on specialist sites. Traditional auction houses are seeking to capitalize on the new phenomenon

The NFT boom is being fuelled by early investors in crypto who became millionaires

OTHER INTERESTING NFTs

These images from Sotheby's are pictured ahead of a NFT auction. One of the photos has a woman looking at the artwork

"Visor" by Mad Dog Jones

"CryptoPunk 7523" by Larva Labs

SOME HISTORICAL MILESTONES IN ART

1907 Picasso's "Les Demoiselles" saw the beginning of Cubism

1917 Malevich's "Black Square" kicked off Abstraction

1917 Duchamp and the era of the idea

2014 "Quantum" is the start of the NFT era

SOURCE: SOTHEBY'S

Covaxin gets Brazil regulator nod

Vaccine had been denied approval over manufacturing issues found by regulator

MEDICINE

HYDERABAD: Brazil has given clearance to the proposal to import Bharat Biotech's Covid-19 vaccine Covaxin into the South American country with some conditions.

The National Health Surveillance Agency of Brazil- Anvisa - had earlier denied permission to import Covaxin after authorities found that the Indian plant in which the jab was being made did not meet the good manufacturing practice (GMP) requirements.

The Brazilian health regulator also approved another proposal to import Russia's Sputnik V vaccine into that country. According to Anvisa's approval, Brazil is expected to receive four million doses of Covaxin initially. After using the authorised doses, the agency will analyse the data for monitoring the use of the vaccine in order to assess the next quantities to be imported.

"Anvisa authorised this Friday the exceptional import of the Covaxin vaccine by the Ministry of Health for distribution and use under controlled conditions. The authorisation defined the amount of 4 million doses, which can be used only under specific conditions. The decision was taken at the 9th Extraordinary Public Meeting of the Collegiate Board," it said in a statement in Portuguese.

All batches to be destined for Brazil must have been manufactured after the adaptations of the GMP implemented by the manufacturer Bharat Biotech, according to the corrective and preventive action report (Corrective and Preventive Action - CAPA) presented to Anvisa, the regulator said narrating a slew of conditions for the importing of Covaxin.

On February 26, Bharat Biotech Ltd had said it signed an agreement with the Brazilian government for the supply of 20 million doses of Covaxin during the second and third quarters of 2021.

BharatBiotech presented an adequate action plan and fulfilled all the pending issues related to the certification of GMP request, Anvisa said.

Bharat Biotech, on May 25, filed new requests with Anvisa on the issues ofGMP. Anvisa recently authorised the conduct of clinical trials of Covaxin in Brazil.

Cruise ships in fragile Venice spark protests

ENVIRONMENT

VENICE: The first cruise ship leaving Venice since the pandemic is set to depart Saturday amid protests by activists demanding that the enormous ships be permanently rerouted out the fragile lagoon, especially Giudecca Canal through the city's historic center, due to environmental and safety risks.

Italian Premier Mario Draghi's government pledged this winter to get cruise ships out of the Venice lagoon, but reaching that goal will take time. But even an interim solution is not likely before next year and getting ships out of the lagoon could take years. Passengers arriving Saturday for the week-long cruise aboard the 92,409-ton, 16-deck MSC Orchestra were greeted at the port by signs reading "Welcome Back Cruises."

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